CONDITIONAL SENTENCES IN THE ALPI. A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PENINSULAR NORTHWEST

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Abstract

In the field of syntax, conditional sentences were the research focus of many studies concentrating upon different aspects of such constructions: structure, tenses used in protasis and apodosis, etc. (Xove 1986; Veiga 1991). Some of these studies have examined the peculiarities which occur in conditionals according to the linguistic territory occupied by them. By taking into account these previous works, the objective of this present study is to analyse conditional sentences in the different Romance languages which converge in the Iberian Peninsula (Galician, Portuguese, Astur-Leonese and Castilian). The different tenses present in the protasis and apodosis of these sentences will be the chief focus of this study, which will examine the most frequent in each language and observe whether there is some kind of dialectal distribution or not. The basis for this will be the data provided by the Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica (ALPI) and the three conditional sentences featured in this atlas will form the core of the present analysis.

Keywords

conditional sentences, Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica, protasis, apodos

AS ORACIÓNS CONDICIONAIS NO ALPI. UNHA ANÁLISE CONTRASTIVA DO NOROESTE PENINSULAR

Resumen

No eido da sintaxe, as oracións condicionais foron obxecto de investigación de múltiples estudos centrados en diferentes aspectos destas construcións: estrutura, tempos verbais usados na prótase e na

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apódose, etc. (Xove 1986; Veiga 1991). Algúns deses traballos téñense fixado nas peculiaridades que presentan as condicionais segundo o territorio lingüístico que ocupan. Tendo en conta estes estudos previos, desenvolvemos este traballo que ten como obxectivo analizar as oracións condicionais nas diferentes linguas románicas que conflúen no noroeste da Península Ibérica (galego, portugués, asturleonés e castelán). Principalmente ocuparémonos dos diferentes tempos verbais presentes na prótase e na apódose destas oracións, examinando cales son os máis frecuentes en cada lingua e observando se se dá ou non algún tipo de distribución dialectal. No nosso estudo partimos dos datos que nos proporciona o Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica (ALPI) e centrámonos nas tres oracións condicionais que foron recollidas neste atlas.

**Palabras chave**

oracións condicionais, Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica, prótase, apódose

### 1. Introduction

The Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica (ALPI) has generated a broad series of studies in recent years related to different areas of linguistics. In spite of its data being collected during the first half of the 20th century, the ALPI continues to cause an impression today because of the modernity of its questionnaire, precisely as David Heap observes (2002: 13). Heap also points out that it is an atlas which provides extensive information that allows for the undertaking of phonetic and lexical studies (the favourite studies of geolinguistics), and also morphosyntatic studies, on account of the numerous questions registered in Notebook I regarding unstressed pronouns, different verb forms, constructions with the impersonal ‘se’, passive reflexive sentences or conditional sentences, which are the subject of this study.

This is the reason why for this present work the data which this atlas offers is taken as a basis to analyse the structures of conditional sentences in the linguistic varieties of the northwest of the Peninsular Northwest. The three conditional sentences which are included in Notebook I, in the section on morphosyntaxis, are considered:

386. *Si tuviera dinero lo compraría* [If I/he/she had money, I/he/she would buy it]

387. *Si estudiase aprendería* [If I/he/she studied, I/he/she would learn]
Si pudiera la mataría [If I/he/she could, I/he/she would kill her]

This study will focus upon the syntactical structure presented by these sentences in each linguistic area of the Peninsular Northwest, as well as the tense-mode morphemes (TMM) of the verb forms which constitute them, in order to determine if these features present or not a dialectal distribution in the territory under examination.

1.1. ALPI

In 1914 Ramón Menéndez Pidal conceived the idea of developing a linguistic atlas in order to study the Romance varieties of the Iberian Peninsula. In order to coordinate this project, Menéndez Pidal chose his disciple, Tomás Navarro Tomás, who undertook the selection and supervision of the group of interviewers who would attend to the collection of materials in the selected points of the principal linguistic areas:

- Aníbal Otero, Rodrigo de Sá Nogueira, Armando Nobre de Gusmão and L. F. Lindley Cintra: Galician and Portuguese areas
- Aurelio M. Espinosa and Lorenzo Rodríguez Castellano: Castilian area
- Francesc de Borja Moll and Manuel Sanchís Guarner: Catalan, Valencian and Balear areas.

The researchers began the data collection from 1931, but in 1936, with the outbreak of Civil War, the collection work was interrupted and left incomplete in Asturias, Cataluña, Valencia and Portugal; these were finished in their majority between 1947 and 1954 (Sousa 2010: 243-244).

The ALPI sought to be an exceptionally knowledgeable atlas, similar to those which were being produced at that time in Central Europe (Pedrazuela 2005: 274); what was being sought was not a detailed vision of the territory, but “unha visión de

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2 “La primera salida la realizó Espinosa en la primavera de 1931 por pueblos de Cáceres”, in Pedrazuela 2005: 280. “The first excursion was undertaken by Espinosa in the spring of 1931 throughout towns in Cáceres.”

3 In some Portuguese locations the fieldwork was not completely finished until the summer of 1956 (ALPI 1962).
conxunto que definise as grandes liñas e mesmo as características dos principais dominios” (Álvarez 2014: 179). The locations network was made up of 528 locations and the informants were selected carefully in order that they be the best representatives of local speech:

Tenían que ser naturales del pueblo estudiado, y se procuraba que también lo fuesen sus padres y esposas. Eran preferidos los que habían viajado poco y no habían residido fuera del lugar, y también los analfabetos o muy poco instruídos, a fin de que se viesen exentos de la influencia de los dialectos de otras localidades y de la lengua culta (ALPI 1962).

The ALPI questionnaire was divided in two notebooks for the gathering of material: I, Phonetics, Morphology and Syntax, in which the questions employed for this study are included, and II, Lexicon and Ethnography.

At the time when the notebook enquiry was designed, Navarro Tomás was carrying out research in phonetics abroad, and this can be seen reflected in the questionnaire by the largest number of questions related to this discipline, by the care when designing a complex phonetic alphabet and by taking the trouble to provide efficient collection tools (Pedrazuela 2005). However, although the less syntax questions were scarcer, they also allow us to carry out studies such as this.

1.2. Territory studied

In this work the space examined in the ALPI is limited, and focus is placed solely on locations in Portugal and the northwest of the Spanish state, on the territory comprised by Galicia, Asturias and the Castilian provinces of León, Zamora and

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4 “A vision of the whole which might define the main lines and even the characteristics of the principal domains.”

5 They had to be natives of the town being studied, and it was also the intention that their parents and partners were too. Those people who had travelled little and had not resided elsewhere, and also the illiterate and little educated were preferred, with the objective of them being exempt from the influence of the dialects of other locations and of the learned language (ALPI 1962).

6 Two versions of this second notebook were produced: an abbreviated version, the IIG, with 417 questions, and another more extensive version, the IIE, with 833 questions, which was the most employed.
Salamanca. In this study’s annex Maps (3) and (4) and the list of places where the enquiry was carried out in this territory are included, with codes used in the ALPI. The locations network studied is what is schematically included in Chart 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GALICIA</th>
<th>52 LOCATIONS (100 – 151)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Coruña</td>
<td>15 locations (100-113)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lugo</td>
<td>14 locations (114-127)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontevedra</td>
<td>13 locations (128-140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ourense</td>
<td>11 locations (141-151)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
<td>93 LOCATIONS (200 - 292)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viana do Castelo</td>
<td>5 locations (200-204)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braga</td>
<td>7 locations (205-211)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oporto</td>
<td>5 locations (212-216)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vila Real</td>
<td>3 locations (217-219)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bragança</td>
<td>9 locations (220-228)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guarda</td>
<td>6 locations (229-234)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viseu</td>
<td>6 locations (235-240)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aveiro</td>
<td>3 locations (241-243)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coimbra</td>
<td>5 locations (244-248)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castelo Branco</td>
<td>6 locations (249-254)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leiria</td>
<td>4 locations (255-258)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santarem</td>
<td>7 locations (256-265)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portalegre</td>
<td>6 locations (266-271)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>4 locations (272-275)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setúbal</td>
<td>3 locations (276-278)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Évora</td>
<td>2 locations (279-280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beja</td>
<td>6 locations (281-286)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faro</td>
<td>6 locations (287-293)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTURIAS</td>
<td>24 LOCATIONS (300 - 323)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEÓN</td>
<td>13 LOCATIONS (324 - 336)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZAMORA</td>
<td>12 LOCATIONS (337 - 348)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALAMANCA</td>
<td>11 LOCATIONS (349 - 359)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 1. Territory studied

Four linguistic domains converge in the area studied: Galician, Portuguese, Astur-Leonese and Castilian. As is well known, these do not coincide with the administrative
territorial divisions. In Chart 2, the locations belonging to each one of the domains is specified.⁷

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galician</td>
<td>61 locations</td>
<td>Galicia (52 locations) + Asturias (5) + León (2) + Zamora (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>92 locations</td>
<td>Portugal (92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astur-Leonese</td>
<td>31 locations</td>
<td>Asturias (19) + León (6) + Zamora (5) + Portugal (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castilian</td>
<td>21 locations</td>
<td>León (4) + Zamora (5) + Salamanca (11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 2. Linguistic domains⁸

2. Corpus analysis

In order to carry out this study, such as is conveyed in the introduction, the conditional sentences included in Notebook 1 of the ALPI, in the Morphosyntax section, are employed. It should be taken into account that, as De Benito (2010: 4) points out:

El estudio de variables sintácticas en un atlas lingüístico presenta diversas dificultades (...) resulta difícil aislar en el cuestionario los múltiples factores que pueden influir en la variación (...) se pretendía eliciar la misma oración de todos los informantes, los primeros atlas recurrieran a la pregunta directa y les pedían que repitiesen la oración, lo que puede haber influido decisivamente, y de forma difícil de valorar, en el comportamiento lingüístico del informante. En las zonas bilingües especialmente, la actitud del encuestador puede haber sido determinante a la hora de elegir el modelo lingüístico en el que se formuló la pregunta (castellano, gallego, catalán, etc.), por lo que no podemos tener la certeza de si los datos obtenidos son representativos de la situación dialectal o si se trata de una imitación del modelo propuesto.⁹

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⁷ It is not always straightforward to ascribe specific diatopic varieties to one or another linguistic domains, especially when it concerns border varieties. When establishing the distribution of locations studied by domain, the works of Babarro (2003), Seco Orosa (2001) and Morala Rodríguez (2001) were considered.

⁸ In the table of locations found in the annexe, the linguistic domain to which each one of the enquiry locations is ascribed is included.

⁹ Sections in bold have been highlighted by the authors of this article. “The study of syntactical varieties in a linguistic atlas presents different difficulties. (...) It is difficult to isolate in the questionnaire the
Therefore, the variety of responses that we find in structures used in conditional sentences or the alternation which the TMM present could be on account of dialectal variation, but also of different factors which influenced data collections, in accordance with De Benito. However, as has already been indicated, as the territory studied is an area of linguistic convergence, linguistic interference can occur. This study will seek to analyze such issues.

The analysis that is put forward presently regarding the data obtained from the ALPI is organized in the following manner:

Firstly, the structures registered for each sentence in each linguistic area is analyzed by focussing upon the variants encountered: their frequency, their predominant structures, etc. This will allow the establishing of a comparison of the results between the different varieties.

Secondly, these structures are examined in the most detailed manner, and by focussing on the one hand on the protasis analysis, and on the other hand on that of the apodosis. In this case, the three sentences are dealt with collectively, with attention paid to verb tenses and the TMM which appear in each one of the clauses in the different linguistic domains.

2.1. Sentences. Structure

As Álvarez & Xove (2002: 156) indicate: “na construcción condicional establecéese que os feitos narrados nunha oración (apódose) ocorren ou ocurrerían de se cumpri-la hipótese ou condición expresa na oración que leva o nexo (prótase)”10. These multiple factors which can influence variation (...). The aim was to elicit the same sentence from all the informants; the first atlases resorted to the direct question and asked them if they would repeat the sentence, which might have been a decisive influence, and in a way that is difficult to evaluate, upon the linguistic behaviour of the informant. In bilingual areas especially, the attitude of the interviewer might have been decisive when choosing the linguistic model through which the question was formulated (Castilian, Galician, Catalan, etc.). As such, we cannot be certain as to whether the data obtained is representative of the dialectal situation or if it is a matter of an imitation of the proposed model.”

10 “In the conditional construction, it is established that the events narrated in a sentence (apodosis) occur or would occur if the hypothesis or condition expressed in the sentence which carries the nexus (protasis) came to happen.”
characteristics are shared by the languages of the Peninsular Northwest. Therefore, the basic structure of the conditionals of the ALPI is the same in all the questions analyzed: se + protasis + apodosis, although in these clauses different combinations of verb tenses are found and will be described presently.

2.1.1. Si tuviera dinero lo compraría [If I/he/she had money, I/he/she would buy it]

2.1.1.1. Galician

The majority structure registered in Galician in this first conditional sentence is that formed by tivera + compraría (Se tivera diñeiro compraría), which is ground in 39 locations surveyed. In the remaining 22, the structure registered was that formed by tivera + comprábao (Se tivera diñeiro comprábao). In this case, a clear distribution does not exist. Instead, the two structures appear distributed throughout the entire Galician area.

2.1.1.2. Portuguese

The conditional pattern registered practically throughout the entire Portuguese area is that formed by tivesse + comprava (Se (eu) tivesse dinheiro, comprava-o), with 88 examples scattered throughout the entire territory. Other, less frequent structures are registered, like tivera + comprava (Se tivera dinheiro comprava-o), logged in the localities of Montemor-o-Velho (245), Almeirim (264) and Rio de Onor (222); tivesse + compraria (Se tivesse dinheiro compraria-o), collected only in the location of Atouguia da Baleia (258) and, finally, tiver(e) + compraria, a structure registered only in Pataias (256): Se tiver dinheiro comprava-o.

2.1.1.3. Astur-Leonese

In the Astur-Leonese domain, the most frequent structure is tuviera + compraba (Si tuviera dineru comprábalu), registered in practically the entirety of the survey
locations. In the Asturian locality of Felechosa (315), in the county Ayer, a different structure for this sentence is found: *tuviera + compraría* (*Si tuviera cuartus comprarialu*). In the Portuguese location of Duas Igrejas (225), Miranda Do Douro (Bragança), the structure *tivesse + comprava* (*Se tivesse dinheiro compra-\-lo*) appears.

2.1.1.4. Castilian

In the locations pertaining to the Castilian area, three different structures are registered: *tuviera + compraba, tuviera + compraría e tuviera + comprara*. The first of them (*Si tuviera dinero lo compraba*) is the most frequent, found in 11 of the 21 locations within this domain. The construction *tuviera + compraría* (*Si yo tuviera dinero lo compraría*), registered in 8 localities, is also common. Finally, the last of the structures (*Si tuviera dinero lo comprara*) is very uncommon, occurring solely in the localities of Fuenteguinaldo (357) and Retortillo (353), both in Salamanca.

2.1.2. *Si estudiase aprendería* [If I/he/she studied, I/he/she would learn]

2.1.2.1. Galician

With this second conditional sentence, in the Galician domain, we find three different structures: *estudara + aprendería, estudara + apenderea, estudase + aprendería*. The most common is the first of them (*Se estudara apenderea*), registered in 41 locations. The response *Se estudara aprendería* is also relatively frequent, being collected in 13 of the surveyed locations. Finally, *Se estudase aprendería* is registered in 7 locations of the domain.

2.1.2.2. Portuguese

The majority structure in the Portuguese area is that formed by *estudasse + aprenderia* (*Se estudasse aprenderia*), with 90 examples distributed throughout the entire
territory. In just two locations, in Moita (276) and in Barrancos (281), a different response is registered: (Se) estudasse + aprenderia.

2.1.2.3. Astur-Leonese

With Astur-Leonese the majority response to this question is Si estudiara aprenderia. This structure (estudiara + aprenderia) is registered in 20 of the 31 locations in the domain. The structure estudiara + aprenderia (Si estudiara aprenderia) is also found, although with less frequency, in 6 localities. In the locations of Páramo del Sil (326) and Pontedo (330), both in León, and also in Mahide (343), in Zamora, another different structure is obtained: estudiara + aprenderia (si estudiara aprenderia). Finally, registered in the Asturian locality of Busmente (304) are estudiasse + aprenderia (Si estudiasse aprenderia), and in the Portuguese locality of Duas Igrejas (225), estudasse + adeprendia (Se estudasse adeprendia).

2.1.2.4. Castilian

The majority pattern in the Castilian domain is estudiara + aprenderia (Si estudiara aprenderia), registered in 12 locations. The structure estudiara + aprendía (Si estudiara aprenderia), which is collected in 8 places, is also frequent. In the locality of Folledo (329), in León, the response was: estudiara + aprendiera (Si estudiara aprenderia).

2.1.3. Si pudiera la mataría [If I/he/she could, I/he/she would kill her]

2.1.3.1. Galician

In the responses to the third question, the two structures poidera + mataría and poidera + mataba are found in the Galician domain. The first of them (Se poidera mataría) is the most frequent, with 39 examples distributed throughout the entire
territory. The second (Se poidera matábaa) is also common, being registered in 22 localities distributed through the whole of the Galician area.

2.1.3.2. Portuguese

The most frequent structure in Portuguese, again with considerable difference, is that formed by pudesse + matava (Se pudesse matava-a), with 91 examples, of which one, which appears in Ferreira do Alentejo (283), presents the clauses in reverse: Matava-a se pudesse. The only location in which this structure does not appear is that of Rio de Onor (221), where (Se) + pudiera + matava-a is registered.

2.1.3.3. Astur-Leonese

In practically the entirety of the locations in the Astur-Leonese domain, the structure pudiera + mataba (Si pudiera, matába) is found. The other existing patterns are registered only in each of the following locations: Felechosa (315), in the county of Ayer (Asturias), pudiera + mataria (Si pudiera, mataria) and in the Portuguese locality of Duas Igrejas (225), Bragança, pudesse + mataba (Se pudesse matába). 

2.1.3.4. Castilian

Finally, in the Castilian area, the most frequent structure is also pudiera + mataba (Si pudiera la mataba), registered in 17 of the 21 domain locations. In three localities of Salamanca (350 -Guijuelo del Barro-, 355 -Serradilla del Arroyo- and 359-Valdefuentes de Sangusín-) pudiera + mataria (Si pudiera la mataria) is found. In location 329 (Folledo, León), the response registered is Si pudiera la matara, with the structure pudiera + matara.

2.2. Verb tenses in the protasis

The TMM employed in the protasis present an alternation and clear distribution throughout the territory studied in this work, as can be seen in Map 1.
The granite colour, which represents the TMM -ra, is extended throughout the Galician, Astur-Leonese and Castilian area, and the linguistic limits in this case coincide with the administrative ones in regard to the Portuguese area, where the TMM -sse, represented by the colour blue, is clearly dominant, it being the only one registered in 90 of the 92 locations surveyed in the area of Portuguese speech. This question will now be analyzed in more precise details in each linguistic domain. **Título del mapa en inglés?**

Map 1. MMT Protasis

2.2.1. Galician

According to Álvarez & Xove (2002: 156), in Galician the most characteristic conditional pattern is that which uses the conjunction se as a nexus in the protasis. The verb is in the indicative when the mood is non-irreal and in the past subjunctive if it is irreal, as occurs in the constructions registered in the ALPI in the Galician area. Xove (1992: 150) indicates that:
Desde o punto de vista do falante, este pode ter experiencia ou coñecemento efectivo da súa irrealidade ou pode dalos como tales aínda carecendo de datos seguros sobre a súa existencia. É dicir, un falante pode dar como irreais acontecementos que empíricamente poden revelarse non irreais (se viñese mañá poderíamos saír xuntos é irreal aínda que a persoa en cuestión “chegue mañá”, do mesmo modo que virá mañá é plenamente real aínda que ó cabo resulte a súa incomparecencia). (...) a creación expresa [das situacións inexistentes] (...) realizase necesariamente con andara ou andase.11

The past subjunctive in Galician presents two variants of the TMM, -ra e -se, and according to Xove (1986: 135-136):

... a frecuencia relativa de -ra e -se depende basicamente de se existe ou non significado irreal. En presencia deste, a proporción de -ra sobe enormemente e de xeito regular. (...) O escaso número do -se irreal (...) aparece distribuído polas distintas áreas xeográficas. é dicir, as porcentaxes non sofren modificacións en relación coas variedades dialectais.12

Therefore, the TMM registered in Galician in the protasis of the three conditional constructions which appear in the ALPI is the -ra of the past subjunctive, and coinciding with what Xove indicates, is what is mainly recorded, since in 7 locations of those in which -se was found, which was only in the responses of the second conditional construction, -ra appears in the other two questions in these same localities.

11 “From the speaker’s point of view, they can have an effective experience or knowledge of their irreality or can provide these as such even when secure data regarding their existence is lacking. That is to say, a speaker can interpret as irreal those events which can be revealed empirically as non-irreal (se viñese mañá poderíamos saír xuntos is irreal, even though the person in question “chegue mañá” or arrives tomorrow, in the same way that virá mañá is wholly real even though in the end there is a non-appearance). (...) The express creation [of inexistente situations] (...) is realized necessarily by andara or andase.”

12 “The relative frequency of -ra and -se depends basically on whether there exists or not an irreal meaning. If it is the latter case, the proportion of -ra increases enormously and in a regular manner. (...) The scarce number of irreal -se (...) appears distributed through the different geographical areas. That is, the percentages do not undergo modifications in relation to the dialectic varieties.”
Furthermore, the form -se, just as Xove also underlines, does not present a dialectic distribution, but appears spread out across 7 localities in the Galician speech area: 2 in the A Coruña province (Abegondo -104- and Lavacolla -112-), 3 in that of Lugo (Ferreira do Valadouro -116-, A Devesa -117- and Palas de Rei -121-) and the remaining 2 were collected in Asturian administrative territory (Freal, in Navia -302-, and Cuantas, in Ibias -323-).

Therefore, the variant -ra is, with considerable difference, the most frequent in the Galician area, occurring in 96.17% of cases, whilst the use of -se is reduced to 3.82%. The data registered in the ALPI corroborate what has been pointed out by Xove (1981) and by Álvarez & Xove (2002), since the variant -ra “tende a se-la más frecuente co significado de irrealidade”.  

2.2.2. Portuguese

In the Portuguese area, protasis presents the TMM of the pretérito do conjuntivo -sse [copretérito de subxuntivo] in practically all registered responses, in 98.18% of cases. The exceptions, which constitute the remaining 2.17%, are found in just 4 localities. In 2 of them, Montemor-o-Velho (245) and in Almeirim (264), the TMM of the pretérito mais-que-perfeito -ra [antepretérito de indicativo] was registered only in the first conditional (Si tuviera dinero lo compraría) and the TMM of the copretérito de conjuntivo -se in the other cases. In Rio de Onor (221), the TMM -ra was registered in the responses to three questions. Finally, in Pataias (256) a register of the form -r(e) is found, which is possibly a futuro de conjuntivo with a paragogic (e).

The Portuguese grammars consulted (Cintra & Cunha 2000 and Mira Mateus 2003) insist upon the use of the conjuntivo in conditional sentences: “o conjuntivo é por excelência o modo da oração subordinada (...) Usa-se nas orações condicionais, em que a condição é irrealizável ou hipotética” (Cintra & Cunha 2000: 466-469). Therefore, it is strange to find these three cases in which the pretérito mais-que-

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13 “Tends to the most frequent with the meaning of irreality.”
14 The equivalent tenses in Galician are indicated in brackets.
15 “The subjunctive is the mode par excellence of the subordinate clause (...). It is used in conditional sentences, in which the condition is impossible or hypothetical.”

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*perfeito de indicativo* is registered. In a preceding work (Mouzo 2009: 593), it is suggested that:

O que puido ocorrer é que, ou ben exclusivamente nesta zona se usa o pretérito mais-que- perfeito de Indicativo con valor de pretérito de conjuntivo, ou ben se comparta esta forma en común co copretérito de subxuntivo do galego (*tivera/tivese*), pois sendo linguas irmás, da mesma maneira que comparten trazos fonéticos tamén os comparten morfosintácticos.\(^{16}\)

In this case, when taking into account more data and also observing what takes place in other domains, the first hypothesis is regarded as being more accurate, because the informants answered “tivera” as the first response and “tivesse” as the second, and therefore this TMM -ra is not unknown to them. Moreover, as De Benito points out (vide supra), it could have also influenced the “imitation of the model proposed” by interviewers.

2.2.3. Astur-Leonese

In the Astur-Leonese variety, as the *Gramática de la Llingua Asturiana* (ALLA 2001) [Grammar of the Asturian Language] indicates, the tense that is employed in the protasis of conditional sentences is the *pretérito imperfeito de suxuntivu* [copretérito de subxuntivo]: “amuesa [pretérito imperfeito de suxuntivu] conteíos como’l de deséu (quería que lo ficiera, oxalá lo ficiera) o – equivaliendo al condicional – el de probabilidá futura nel pasáu (cantara una tonada si pudiera)”.\(^{17}\)

This TMM is what was registered in practically all the localities surveyed in the Astur-Leonese territory included in this study, in 95.69% of cases. In the remaining 4.30% the TMM -se is employed, in Busmente (304, Villayón – Asturias) and in Duas

\(^{16}\) “What could have occurred is that either exclusively in this region the pretérito mais-que-perfeito de Indicativo is used in the same way as the pretérito de conjuntivo, or this form is shared in common with the copretérito de subxuntivo of Galician (*tivera/tivese*), since as they are sister languages, they share phonetic features in the same way as they share morphosynatic ones.”

\(^{17}\) “It shows [pretérito imperfeito de suxuntivu] contexts such as that of desire (quería que lo ficiera, oxalá lo ficiera) or – equaling the conditional – that of future probability in the past (cantara una tonada si pudiera).”
Igrejas (221, Bragança – Portugal). In the Asturian locality a register of the TMM -se, which the informant gave as a response to the second question (Si estudiante aprendería) was collected. This TMM does not belong to the verb paradigm of Asturian, and therefore in the same manner as occurred in the Portuguese domain, this is a case which merits attention. If the questions of the atlas are analysed, it can be seen that this second question is formulated with the TMM -se in Spanish:

387. Si estudiante aprendería

Therefore, in the same way as what occurred in the Portuguese case with the form -ra, the variant -se that was registered in this Asturian locality was produced through imitation of the interviewers. Moreover, as it is the only response and the informant did not answer “estudiaría” as a second response, it seems that they were not unaware of the form estudiante, which they could know through Galician or Castilian, given that Busmente is a border locality. In the location of Duas Igrejas, the TMM -sse was registered as a response to three conditional sentences, but it would seem that the explanation in this case can be found in the influence of Portuguese.

2.2.4. Castilian

In Castilian, as with the other languages of the northwest of the Iberian peninsula that have been so far considered, in the protasis of conditional sentences of this kind the pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo [copretérito de subxuntivo] is used. This tense presents, in the same manner as Galician, the variants -ra and -se, but in conditional contexts -ra is employed with greater frequency:

La sustitución de amārem por amavissem empezó a darse en contextos modales, en especial condicionales, lo que anticipaba el importante cambio gramatical que CANTARA experimentó en la historia del español (RAE 2009: 1803).18

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18 “The substitution of amārem for amavissem began to occur in modal contexts, under special conditions, which anticipated the important grammatical change which CANTARA underwent in the history of Spanish” (RAE 2009: 1803).
Although at first the forms -ra and -se can be used indistinctly because of their grammatical equivalence, the grammars consulted (RAE 1999; RAE 2009) indicate that the form -ra is the most employed:

En el estado actual de la lengua la forma en -ra siempre admite ser empleada como equivalente de la forma en -se, y si lo contrario no es posible en todos los casos para la forma simple cantase, la razón no es otra que la conservación por parte de cantara de algunos empleos modalmente indicativos, pervivencias de su valor etimológico. Sin embargo, como expresiones del contenido modal propio del subjuntivo, las formas en -ra y en -se son hoy por hoy perfectamente equivalentes, con lo que tenemos que señalar la existencia de dos realizaciones expresivas concretas en relación de alomorfismo (...). La reducción en el uso de una de estas formas a favor de la otra en la lengua hablada es, con toda probabilidad, uno de los factores que han motivado en algunos autores querer ver diferencias de matiz significativo entre cantara y cantase, diferencias completamente imaginarias de acuerdo con el funcionamiento del sistema verbal español actual (RAE, 1999: 2910). 19

Indeed, in the localities surveyed in the ALPI within the Castilian area, situated in the provinces of León, Salamanca and Zamora, only the -ra form was registered in 100% of cases in the responses collected, which reasserts the reduction of the -se form with respect to the allomorph -ra. It would be interesting to know the responses throughout the territory of Castilian speech in order to see if these results extend throughout or if an alternation with the -se form occurs, although it is believed that a new study, which would focus exclusively on the use of the pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo in Spanish, would be needed.

19 “In the current state of the language the form in -ra can always be employed as an equivalent of the form in -se, and if the opposite is not possible in all the cases for the simple form cantase, the reason is none other than the conservation on the part of cantara of some indicative mood uses, remnants of its etymological value. However, as expressions of the subjunctive’s own modal content, the forms in -ra and in -se are at present perfectly equivalent, with which the existence of two specific expressive occurrences must be shown in relation to allomorphism (...). The reduction in the use of one of these forms in favour of the other spoken language us, with all probability, one of the factors which have motivated in some authors a wish to see differences of a significant kind between cantara and cantase, differences which are completely imaginary according to the workings of the current Spanish verb system” (RAE 1999: 2910).
2.3. Verb tenses in the apodosis

In contrast to what was presented beforehand regarding the protasis, the tenses employed in the apodosis do not display such a clear territorial distribution. As can be observed on the Map 2, the majority tense is the copretérito de indicativo which extends throughout the entire Portuguese domain, the south of Galicia and a good number of Astur-Leonese locations. The employment of the pospretérito de indicativo, represented in yellow, is also common, especially in the Galician domain. However, the localities in which both tenses were registered are frequent. The data gathered in each one of the linguistic domain will now be analyzed more carefully.

2.3.1. Galician

In Galician two verb tenses in the apodoses of the sentences analyzed are registered: the copretérito and the pospretérito de indicativo. However, the majority option in this area is to use the pospretérito de indicativo, which is registered in 126
examples: 39 corresponding with the first question (compraría), 48 with the second (aprendería) and 39 with the third (mataría). As for the copretérito de indicativo, 57 examples of the use of this tense in these constructions were collected: 22 in the first question (compraba), 13 in the second (aprendía) and 22 in the third (mataba). In short, the pospretérito appears in 70% of the examples and the copretérito in 30%.

The information extracted from the ALPI regarding the employment of these tenses in conditional sentences contrasts with Xove’s contribution (1986: 133, 134):

No galego falado a presencia do Antepretérito irreal é moi cativa; o Copretérito é con moito a forma máis empregada, seguida do Pospretérito. Esta última forma, xunto co Copretérito, predomina en cambio na lingua escrita en prosa. A presencia do Antepretérito é en xeral tamén baixa neste rexistro, como na lingua falada.  

In a note, Xove shows the data that he took into account when providing this information:

Valéémonos das transcripcións do material grabado por toda Galicia para o Atlas Lingüístico de Galicia (ALGa), que suman 245 folios, e das transcripcións das grabacións correspondentes á provincia da Coruña reunidas e arquivadas no Instituto da Lingua Galega (ILGa), que fan un total de 389 folios. Nas primeiras recollemos, para toda Galicia, 82 exemplos de Copretérito irreal, 24 de Pospretérito e 6 de Apto. Nas segundas, 97, 18 e 2 respectivamente.

Regarding the differences between the data of the ALPI that have been taken into account in this study and those of the ALGa, examined by Xove, it can be seen that

20 “In spoken Galician the presence of the irreal Antepretérito is very limited; the Copretérito is the form most employed and by a large degree, followed by the Pospretérito. However, this final form, together with the Copretérito, prevails in the language written in prose. The presence of the Antepretérito is in general also low in this register, as in the spoken language.”

21 “We made us of the transcriptions of the material recorded throughout Galicia for the Linguistic Atlas of Galicia (ALGa), which totals 245 pages, and the transcriptions of the recordings corresponding to the province of A Coruña collected together and archived in the Galician Language Institute (ILGa), which make a total of 389 pages. In the first we find, for all of Galicia, 82 examples of the Copretérito irreal, 24 of the Pospretérito and 6 of the Apto. In the second, 97, 18 and 2 respectively.”
in the approximately 40 years which separate the two atlases,\(^22\) a considerable increase occurred in the use of the *copretérito* and a notable decrease of the *pospretérito* in order to express irreality in conditional sentences, reaching the point of reversing the percentages of the use of the two tenses. However, there might be other causes of this marked difference in the uses of the *copretérito* and the *pospretérito*. In the ALPI questionnaire, the tense employed in the utterances of the three sentences is the *pospretérito* (*compraría, aprendería, mataría*); it is quite possible that the interview method (direct question and sentence repetition, or the “imitation of the proposed model” to which De Benito refers) influenced the informants’ responses and, as a result, the percentages cited by this study.

Regardless of the greater or lesser use, in Galician three tenses in the apodosis of the conditional sentence can be found: *copretérito, pospretérito* and *antepretérito de indicativo*, although the last of these is not very common and is not registered in the ALPI. Just as Álvarez & Xove (2002: 299, 300) point out, the three tenses are variants of meaning when in the “indicativo irreal” mood, where the time values disappear: the *copretérito* loses its principal value of simultaneity to what precedes the origin, and the *pospretérito* the principal value of posteriority to what precedes the origin, in such a way that both do not possess a specific temporal value.

2.3.2. Portuguese

In the Portuguese domain, the *pretérito imperfeito de indicativo* [*copretérito de indicativo*] is practically the only tense registered in the apodosis of conditional sentences studies. 91 examples can be found in the first question (*comprava*), 90 in the second (*aprendia*) and 92 in the third (*matava*). The *futuro de pretérito simples* [*pospretérito de indicativo*] is also found in the ALPI, but its presence is very minority, being registered on this occasion in just three of the 92 Portuguese locations surveyed: in Atouguia da Baleia (258) it is found in the first sentence (*compraria*) and in Moita (276) and Barrancos (281), in the second (*aprenderia*).

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\(^{22}\) The collection of data by the ALPI in the Galician locations took place between 1931 and 1935. The fieldwork for the development of the ALGa began in 1974.
According to Cunha & Cintra (2000: 462), both tenses can be employed in the apodosis of the conditional sentences, but different nuances in the use of one or the other exist:

O futuro do pretérito pode ser substituído pelo imperfeito do indicativo nas afirmações condicionadas. Comparen-se as seguintes asserções:
Sem a sua interferência, eu estaria perdido.
Sem a sua interferência, eu estava perdido.
Na primeira, o facto principal (estar perdido) é apresentado como consequência provável da condição que não ocorreu; na segunda, ele aparece como o efeito imediato e inelutável dela.23

2.3.3. Astur-Leonese

In the Astur-Leonese domain, the tense most frequently registered in the apodosis of the conditional sentences analyzed is the pretérito imperfeito d’indicativo [copretérito de indicativo]. It is found in 30 responses to the first question (compraba), in 20 to the second (aprendía) and in 29 to the third (mataba); that is, approximately in 88% of total responses. The probability value which the pretérito imperfeito d’indicativo presents in these conditional sentences is described in the Gramática de la Llingua Asturiana (ALLA 2001: 181) as a notion derived from the imperfect character of this tense:

[Pretérito imperfeito d’indicativo] De la noción d’ación non peracabada pue pasase a la improbabilitá, y d’aende a espresar la non realización. Por exemplu, trayíenvos los regalos nun específica si l’acción tuvo o non un final o cumplimientu (frente a traxéronvos los regalos, onde'l cumplimientu ye efutivu), polo que pue entendese como una realización probable (trayíenvos los regalos si pudieren,

23 “The futuro do pretérito can be substituted by the imperfeito do indicativo in conditional affirmations. Compare the following assertions:
Sem a sua interferência, eu estaria perdido.
Sem a sua interferência, eu estava perdido.
In the first, the principal action (estar perdido) is presented as a probable consequence of the condition which did not occur; in the second, it appears as the immediate and ineluctable effect of it.”
equivaliendo al condicional *trayerienvos* o como una non realización (*trayienvos los regalos, pero nun vos los traxeron*).^{24}

It also appears in the *ALPI*, although with a much lesser frequency than that of the *pretérito imperfecto*, or *condicional* [*pospretérito de indicativo*]. It is registered once in the first and third questions: *compraría* and *mataría*, in locations 315 and 323 respectively and seven times in the second: *aprendería*, in locations 304, 310, 311, 313, 314, 315 and 325.

Finally, the presence of the *pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo* [*pretérito de subxuntivo*] is very minor, registered only in three responses to the second question (*aprendiera*), in locations 326, 330 and 343, expressing the content of “probabilidá futura nel pasáu” which is indicated for this tense in the *Gramática de la Llíngua Asturiana* (ALLA 2001: 182):

[pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo] amuesa conteníos como'l de deséu (*quería que lo ficiera, oxalá lo ficiera*) o -equivaliendo al condicional- el de probabilidá futura futura nel pasáu (*cantara una tonada si pudiera, viniera o nun viniera tábemos esperándolu*).^{25}

2.3.4. Castilian

In the same way as in Astur-Leonese, in the Castilian domain three tenses are also registered in the apodosis: the *pretérito imperfecto de indicativo* [*copretérito de indicativo*], the *condicional simple* [*pospretérito*] and the *pretérito omperfecto de subjuntivo* [*pretérito de subxuntivo*]. The most frequent is the *imperfecto de indicativo*, registered in almost 60% of the total responses. The distribution by question is the

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^{24} “[*Pretérito imperfecto d’indicativo*] It can shift from the notion of an un_consumed action to that of improbability, and from there to express the non-occurrence. For example, *trayienvos los regalos* does not specify whether the action had an end or fulfillment or not (as compared with a *traxéronvos los regalos*, where the fulfillment is effective), so that it can be regarded as a probable completion (*trayienvos los regalos si pudieren*, equivalent to the conditional *trayerienvos*) or as an incomplection (*trayienvos los regalos, pero nun vos los traxeron*).”

^{25} “[*Pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo*] displays contents such as desire (*quería que lo ficiera, oxalá lo ficiera*) or – equivalent to the conditional – that of future probability future in the past (*cantara una tonada si pudiera, viniera o nun viniera tábemos esperándolu*).”
following: 11 examples of the use of this tense were found in the first of these questions (compraba), 9 in the second (aprendía) and 17 in the third (mataba). The use of the condicional simple is also quite frequent (35%), and is collected in 8 examples for the first question (compraría), 11 for the second (aprendería) and 3 for the third (mataría). This data extracted from the ALPI, through which a greater use of the pretérito imperfecto in the Castilian of the Peninsular Northwest can be confirmed, contrast with those recorded by E. Montolío (1999: 3667) for the context of the Castilian domain; he notes that the pattern “<Si + imperfecto de subjuntivo + condicional>” is, in addition to the classic pattern of condicionais potenciais, also “la combinación modal-temporal más frecuente de dicho valor”. However, this researcher also points out the high frequency of the imperfecto de indicativo, especially in colloquial registers:

26 “The most common modal-temporal combination of the aforementioned value.”
27 “The appearance of the imperfecto de indicativo in the apodosis of this pattern [<Si + imperfecto de subjuntivo + imperfecto de indicativo>] constitutes not a normative use, but one which is found notably extended in colloquial registers of Spanish, in such a way that it could be considered a pattern proper of the informal standard (...). It does not seem that this pattern substitutes the standard (imperfecto-condicional), but that the speaker manages it as a syntactical variant more at his or her disposal for expressing belief in a greater probability of fulfillment than that proposed in the apodosis in the event of the protatic proposition being completed.”
of the 20th century as can be concluded from the ALPI data, is described in the *Nueva gramática de la lengua española* (RAE, 2009: 1807) [New Grammar of the Spanish Language] as a “característica de la lengua clásica, en la que adquiere el valor de cantaría.” It also points out that constructions such as *Me comprara un carro si tuviera dinero* are now no longer employed in peninsular Castilian yet persist in the popular language of some Hispano-American countries.

### 3. Conclusions

In this study the data offered to us by *ALPI* concerning conditional sentences in the Romance languages of the Peninsular Northwest has been analyzed. At the beginning of exposition of the results obtained, the difficulties presented by the study of syntax on the basis of a linguistic atlas were underlined, since the responses offered by the informants could be influenced by the attitude of the interviewer and by his or her manner of formulating the question. Therefore, aware that it is not an ideal corpus upon which the study of conditional sentences has been based, this analysis has attempted to proceed with caution, presenting data which is presented in the *ALPI* and contrasting it with that provided by the grammars from the different languages regarding these constructions.

Nevertheless, in spite of the aforementioned limitations, the results obtained reveal the existence of different conditional structures in the languages of the Peninsular Northwest; in each linguistic domain, several structures and different tenses in protasis and apodosis were registered in the *ALPI*. Yet in spite of the variety collected, it is also possible to observe in each language the predominance of some structures over others.

Therefore, whilst Galician reveals a preference for conditional structures formed by the *copretérito de subxuntivo* with the alomorph -*ra* in the protasis and the *pospretérito de indicativo* in the apodosis (*tivera / estudara / puidera + compraría / aprendería / mataría*), Portuguese prefers the conditional pattern composed by the

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28 “Characteristic of classic language, in which it acquires the value of cantaria.”
copretérito de subxuntivo in the protasis and the copretérito de indicativo in the apodosis (tivesse / estudasse / pudesse + comprava / aprendia / matava). In Astur-Leonese, the structure formed by the copretérito de subxuntivo in the protasis and the copretérito de indicativo in the apodosis (tuviera / estudiara / pudiera + compraba / aprendia / mataba) is predominant. Finally, in the Castilian of the area studied, two conditional patterns alternate: on the one hand, that which combines the copretérito de subxuntivo with the alomorph -ra in the protasis and the copretérito de indicativo in the apodosis (tuviera / pudiera + compraba / mataba); on the other hand, that which combines the copretérito de subxuntivo with the alomorph -ra in the protasis with the pospretérito de indicativo in the apodosis (estudiara + aprenderia). It would be interesting in future studies to extend the territory studied to the rest of the Castilian domain in order to contrast the results and therefore obtain the majority solution by taking into account the entire territory.

This preference displayed by each language for certain specific structures in order to construct conditional sentences does not impede a discussion of the common traits between the different domains studies. Thus, concerning protasis, Galician Astur-Leonese and Castilian share the preference for the use of the copretérito de indicativo with the TMM -ra. Although in Galician and Castilian -se is a variant of -ra, the ALPI data reveals that -se is a minority in these languages, in contrast to what occurs in Portuguese, where it is practically the only TMM registered. In regard to the tenses of the apodosis, the copretérito and the pospretérito de Indicativo are registered in all languages. In Portuguese, the employment of the copretérito is clearly the majority; in the others, the differences in the usage percentages are not so striking, with the two tenses being registered in more locations.

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Annexes

Locations of the ALPI studied

Galician domain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location 1</th>
<th>Location 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Sismundi - A Coruña</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Meaño - Pontevedra</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>121</td>
<td>Palas de Rei - Lugo</td>
<td>Salgueiras - Asturias</td>
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<td>Padornelo - Zamora</td>
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Portuguese domain

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</tr>
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<td>249 Belmonte - Castelo Branco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Portuzelo - Viana do Castelo</td>
<td>250 Ourondo - Castelo Branco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Tamente - Viana do Castelo</td>
<td>251 Monsanto - Castelo Branco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>Salamonde - Braga</td>
<td>252 Alcains - Castelo Branco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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### Astur-Leonese domain

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### Castilian domain

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Map 3. Map of linguistic domains (I)
Portuguese domain

Map 4. Map of linguistic domains (II)