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Motor content norms for 4,565 verbs in Spanish

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Abstract

Embodiment theory suggests that, during the processing of words related to movement, as in the case of action verbs, somatotopic activation is produced in the motor and premotor cortices. In the same way, some studies have demonstrated that patients with frontal-lobe damage, such as Parkinson's patients, have difficulties processing that kind of stimulus. At the moment, no standardized data exist concerning the motor content of Spanish verbs. Therefore, the aim of the present research was to develop a database of 4,565 verbs in Spanish through a survey filled out by 152 university students. The value for the motor content was obtained by calculating the average value from the answers of the participants. In addition, the reliability of the results was estimated, as well as their convergent validity, using diverse correlation coefficients. The database and the raw responses of the participants can be downloaded from this website: <https://inco.grupos.uniovi.es/enlaces>.

Keywords Motor content · Verbs · Database · Norms

Over the years, great advances in the study of language processing have allowed the discovery of a dissociation at the brain level between the centers responsible for processing nouns and verbs. Pioneering work in this area was performed by Damasio and Tranel (1993), who designed a task of naming nouns and verbs. This task was performed by two groups of patients, one with lesions in the middle temporal cortex, and the other with damage in the left frontal cortex. The results showed a double dissociation between both groups. The patients with frontal damage had difficulties to recover the verbs but not the nouns, whereas those with temporal damage found nouns challenging, but not verbs.

Subsequent studies have confirmed the existence of this dissociation in disorders such as aphasia (Druks, 2002), progressive nuclear palsy (Cotelli et al., 2006), corticobasal degeneration (Cotelli et al., 2006; Silveri & Ciccarelli, 2007) and motor neuron disorder (Bak & Hodges, 2004).

In this same line, Vigliocco, Vinson, Druks, Barber, and Cappa (2011) conducted a review study of the existing

literature to date on whether word processing of different grammatical classes (especially nouns and verbs) involves different neural systems. They found that some studies showed a confusion between semantic (objects vs. actions) and grammatical distinctions (nouns vs. verbs), and also found a further confusion between studies related to simple word-processing mechanisms and sentence integration. In all of these studies, there was a clear neuronal distinction between the processing of words that refer to objects (nouns) and action words (typical verbs). In addition, the studies also concluded that the grammatical effects of the type of word emerged or became stronger for tasks and languages that impose greater processing demands. This indicates that grammar classes alone would not explain the organization of brain knowledge. Semantics (meaning) and pragmatics (usage) should also be considered, as well as the distributive keys of language related to the syntactic behavior of verbs and nouns in sentences (e.g., position in sentences) and to their morphosyntactic marking (e.g., types of inflection in nouns vs. verbs), which distinguishes between nouns and verbs. In recent decades, the incorporation of neuroimaging techniques, such as functional magnetic resonance (fMRI), to the study of language has been able to specify with greater accuracy the brain locus where words are processed at the semantic level.

When applying fMRI in healthy participants, it has been discovered that the same areas involved in the realization of movement or the reception of sensations are involved in the processing of the language related to those movements and sensations. This is what is

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70 described by embodiment theory. This theory explains
71 that semantic content that makes reference to a move-
72 ment is composed of information that is represented
73 within the motor and sensory systems (Mahon &
74 Caramazza, 2008). Likewise, Hauk, Johnsrude, and
75 Pulvermüller (2004), demonstrated that the activation
76 produced at the cerebral level by the processing words
77 referring to actions performed with the arm and the leg
78 (e.g., catching or kicking) corresponded to the activation
79 that occurs when these movements were performed effec-
80 tively. These results have been supported by numerous
81 studies that have shown that there really is a concordance
82 between the frontal regions involved in the processing of
83 action words and the motor areas that allow realization of
84 the actions to which reference is made. That is to say, the
85 motor and premotor cortices, besides being involved in
86 the planning and execution of movements, are also active
87 during the processing of words semantically related to
88 those same movements (Aziz-Zadeh, Wilson, Rizzolatti,
89 & Iacoboni, 2006; Boulenger, Hauk, & Pulvermüller,
90 2009; Fogassi, Gallese, & Rizzolatti, 2002).

91 Perceptual and bodily experiences are both indispensable
92 to form the semantic component of actions, since they provide
93 the knowledge about their importance as components of the
94 meaning of words. This type of experience will activate
95 sensory–motor states when external contextual stimuli are re-
96 ceived, and also when thinking about them (Barsalou, 1999,
97 2008; Paivio, 1991). This principle means that in order for
98 action word processing to be produced, the activation of pre-
99 viously learned mental schemata is required. These schemas
100 must be formed with perceptual and motor information of the
101 parts of the body involved in the movement associated with a
102 specific concept, such as an action verb.

103 Bien, Jost, Khader, Mertens, and Rösler (2009) devel-
104 oped a study with healthy participants, with the intention
105 of specifying more the cerebral localization of the pro-
106 cessing of verbs. The task the participants had to execute
107 was to subvocally complete a sentence formed by two
108 nouns, generating a verb for it (e.g., “vampire–blood,”
109 so that the participant completes with the verb “to
110 suck”). The strongest activation for the generation of
111 verbs was found in the lower left prefrontal cortex and
112 the upper left temporal gyrus. The latter area is involved
113 in the perception of movement. These results are further
114 evidence that the perceptual representations of move-
115 ments mediate the generation of verbs. Another study
116 has shown that not only are the literal meanings of such
117 verbs processed in motor areas, but even figurative
118 meanings that refer to different parts of the body produce
119 similar activations (Boulenger et al., 2009). The task
120 posed by Boulenger et al. was to present literal phrases
121 and English idioms related to both the hand (e.g., “John
122 got the object” and “John got the idea”) and the leg (e.g.,

“Pablo kicked the ball” and “Pablo kicked the habit,” 123
which means “stop doing something that is hard to stop 124
doing”). They verified that the activity patterns depended 125
fundamentally on the part of the body (arm or leg) to 126
which the word referred. The regions of motor and 127
premotor cortex were activated in a stronger way than 128
other areas during the reading of these sentences, observ- 129
ing a common network in cortical activity for both 130
conditions. 131

132 However, in the study of Brass, Friederici, and 132
Rüschmeyer (2007), the researchers showed that not 133
all verbs activate the motor regions of the brain. These 134
authors compared the activation of action verbs and ab- 135
stract verbs in German. In the case of action verbs, ref- 136
erence is made to those that have a specific motor mean- 137
ing (e.g., *running*), whereas verbs of the abstract or sen- 138
sory type are those that do not contain a motor-type 139
meaning (e.g., *thinking* or *listening*). The results showed 140
greater activation in the somatosensory and motor cortex, 141
but only for action verbs. This, for the authors, suggested 142
the existence of a functional relationship between the 143
lexical processing of action verbs and the sensorimotor 144
system, which differs from the lexical processing of 145
verbs with abstract meaning. Other researchers, such as 146
de Zubicaray, Arciuli, and McMahon (2013), on the con- 147Q1
trary, interpreted the motor cortex activity as a reflection 148
of the implicit processing of ortho-phonological statistical 149
regularities that help to distinguish the grammatical class 150
of a word. Likewise, other studies, such as that of 151
Rodríguez-Ferreiro, Gennari, Davies, and Cuetos (2011), 152Q2
considered that differential brain activation related to ac- 153
tion and abstract verbs could be due to the greater de- 154
mands on semantic recovery or integration of properties 155
imposed by abstract verbs. In recent years, some authors 156
have proposed a softened version of embodiment, based 157
on the results of some patients who, despite showing 158
sensorimotor impairments, hardly present difficulties in 159
conceptual processing. This “disembodied” position sug- 160
gests that a certain concept can be distributed through 161
specific systems of multiple modalities, so that a reduc- 162
tion in sensorimotor information would cause the pro- 163
cessing of a concept dependent on the specific informa- 164
tion of the modality to rely more on other types of rep- 165
resentations (Mahon & Caramazza, 2008; Mahon & 166
Hickok, 2016). 167

168 Anyway, on the basis of these findings, some re- 168
searchers have raised the possibility that patients with 169
damage in the frontal lobe experience difficulties in pro- 170
cessing action verbs. 171Q3

172 This is the case for Parkinson’s disease (PD), a degen- 172
erative and chronic disorder of the nervous system— 173
caused by deterioration of the basal ganglia and charac- 174
terized by difficulties in the initiation and integration of 175

176 movements (Hornykiewicz & Kish, 1984)—which trans- 229
177 lates into motor symptoms such as hypokinesia, bradyki- 230
178 nesia, and limited length and amplitude of repetitive 231
179 movements of the extremities (Bloxham, Dick, & 232
180 Moore, 1987; Miller Koop, Hill, & Bronte-Stewart, 233
181 2013). In addition, language is one of the cognitive pro- 234
182 cesses that is affected in patients with PD, since the de- 235
183 terioration can spread to frontostriatal areas that are im- 236
184 portant to language functioning. The dysfunction in se- 237
185 mantic processing, due to the subcortical frontal deficit, 238
186 causes words that are related to an action to be processed 239
187 with greater difficulty than those that are not. Thus, in a 240
188 study by Fernandino et al. (2013), a lexical decision task 241
189 was designed in which half of the verbs referred to vol- 242
190 untary actions of the hand and arm (e.g., *gripping*, 243
191 *pressing*), and the other half were related to abstract con- 244
192 cepts (e.g., *believing*, *improving*). The results showed 245
193 that, in relation to the controls, the patients with PD 246
194 had processing of action verbs that was more impaired 247
195 than the processing of abstract verbs, showing higher 248
196 error rates and longer reaction times. Another study, car- 249
197 ried out by Herrera, Rodríguez-Ferreiro, and Cuetos 250
198 (2012), showed that, in addition, these patients showed 251
199 special difficulty with action verbs that have a high de- 252
200 gree of motor content, as compared to those with low 253
201 levels. The task that was carried out was the naming of 254
202 drawings that implied some kind of action. The actions 255
203 were classified according to the motor component of the 256
204 verb to which they referred (high motor component— 257
205 e.g., *running*—vs. low motor component—e.g., *sewing*). 258
206 The results obtained showed that the difficulty presented 259
207 by these patients was due to the semantic nature of the 260
208 verbs, since there was an effect of the level of movement 261
209 content that the verbs generated. 262

210 One of the most widespread treatments for PD is 263
211 Levodopa, a precursor of dopamine that replaces endoge- 264
212 nous dopamine, in which the patient is deficient. In addi- 265
213 tion to improving motor symptoms, it has also been found 266
214 to have a beneficial effect on cognitive symptoms. Cuetos 267
215 and Herrera (2013) kept in mind the effect of this medi- 268
216 cation when developing one of their studies. When 269
217 performing a verbal fluency task, patients suffering from 270
218 PD with and without medication (ON and OFF, respec- 271
219 tively) were compared, and also compared with healthy 272
220 participants. The task presented a specific number of 273
221 nouns and verbs orally. The participants had to say as 274
222 quickly as possible the first word that came to their minds 275
223 once they had heard each of the stimuli. When the pa- 276
224 tients were not under the effect of Levodopa (OFF medi- 277
225 cation), they generated words with less strength of asso- 278
226 ciation with the word provided, for both verbs and nouns, 279
227 in comparison with the participants to whom the medica- 280
228 tion had been supplied (ON medication). Interestingly, the 281

patients with PD without medication produced words with 229
less strength of association than among the healthy con- 230
trols only in response to verbal stimuli. Therefore, this is 231
an indication that the absence of dopamine affects the 232
correct functioning of the semantic lexical system, dis- 233
persing the activation to semantically unrelated words, 234
especially with verbal stimuli. 235

236 Finally, in one of the most recent studies, Herrera, 236
237 Bermúdez-Margaretto, Ribacoba, and Cuetos (2015) used 237
238 a task based on the verbal fluency of actions. In the 238
239 results, they found that patients without medication gen- 239
240 erated a lower number of verbs of high motor specificity, 240
241 and that this number increased significantly with the ad- 241
242 ministration of dopamine to these same participants. 242
243 Verbs of high specificity are those that refer to a specific 243
244 part of the body necessary to perform an action (e.g., 244
245 *writing*), whereas verbs with low motor specificity do 245
246 not imply a single determined part of the body (e.g., 246
247 *swimming*). 247

248 Although most studies of difficulties in processing mo- 248
249 tor verbs have been conducted with PD patients, recent 249
250 research has extended the focus to other frontal-lobe in- 250
251 jury disorders, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). 251
252 Thus, Cousins, Ash, and Grossman (2018) compared a 252
253 group of PD patients with ALS patients who might have 253
254 high or low motor impairment in a spontaneous narrative 254
255 task. The results showed a dissociation in the processing 255
256 of action verbs in ALS high-motor-impairment patients, 256
257 since processing was affected only for body verbs (those 257
258 in which the body was the agent of the action; e.g., *grab*), 258
259 but not for theme verbs (those in which the body receives 259
260 the action; e.g., *fall*). This finding was related to de- 260
261 creased gray matter volume in premotor cortex. Such a 261
262 dissociation was not present in the group of PD patients, 262
263 whose achievement was low with all action verbs. 263

264 Bayram, Muhittin, and Akbostanci (2018), on the oth- 264
265 er hand, compared the performance in a verb fluency task 265
266 of a group of patients with PD, a hypokinetic movement 266
267 disorder, and of another group of patients with primary 267
268 cervical dystonia (PCD), a hyperkinetic movement disor- 268
269 der characterized by involuntary movements and abnor- 269
270 mal positions of the head and neck, due to dysfunctions 270
271 in the brain stem, spinal cord, and motor cortex (mainly 271
272 basal ganglia and cerebellum). Both groups produced 272
273 fewer action verbs than the control group. It is important 273
274 to continue doing research and studies to further define 274
275 the types of cognitive alterations that patients with 275
276 frontal-lobe damage suffer from, but for that, more tools 276
277 are needed. Despite the large number of works carried 277
278 out related to the processing of verbs, we know of no 278
279 database up to the present time documenting the motor 279
280 component of Spanish verbs, nor, as far as we know, has 280
281 any been developed in other languages. 281

282 Until now, the procedure that has been used has gener-
 283 ated a new database every time a study has been complet-
 284 ed, using different samples of participants and collecting
 285 data under different conditions. In many cases, the results
 286 obtained in the databases generated by the different stud-
 287 ies have not been comparable.

288 Therefore, we have produced a database of the motor
 289 component of thousands of verbs in use in Spanish, as a
 Q4 290 means to encourage future research, thus favoring more
 291 precise comparisons between studies. In addition, since
 292 the norms refer to a semantic quality of verbs, we consid-
 293 er it plausible that the present database will be useful for
 294 research developed in other languages, since the concep-
 295 tual properties of most of the verbs in the database are
 296 likely to remain constant.

297 **Method**

298 **Participants**

299 One hundred fifty-two university students, selected by a
 300 nonprobabilistic convenience-sampling technique, took part
 301 in this experiment. Each questionnaire was responded to by
 302 between 23 and 29 participants, with 25 participants being the
 303 average for the 52 questionnaires. Spanish was a requirement
 304 for all participants, so the response lines of participants whose
 305 native language was not Spanish had to be eliminated. Almost
 306 all the student respondents were studying for a degree in psy-
 307 chology at the University of Oviedo. The average age of the
 308 participants who completed the questionnaires was 22 years
 309 old.

310 The participants who responded to the questionnaires were
 311 84.6% women and 15.4% men (for a detailed description of
 312 the sample, see Appendix Table 3). Each person completed
 313 between one and ten questionnaires.

314 **Materials**

315 Preparation of the questionnaires that were handed out to
 Q5 316 the participants started with a database of 4,640 verbs in
 317 Spanish (Alonso, Díez, & Fernandez, 2016). Of all the
 318 verbs, a total of 4,565 were selected from the initial data-
 319 base; that is, 75 verbs were excluded because they were
 320 low-frequency words in Spanish, such as *ademar*,
 321 *concomitar*, or *melgar*, and participants would probably
 322 not know their meaning.

323 The selected verbs were randomly distributed and
 324 assigned to each of the 52 questionnaires that made up
 325 the study. Subsequently, they were distributed among the
 326 different participants. The questionnaires were created
 327 using an extension of the “Google Drive” platform called
 328 “Google Forms,” directly connected to the Google cloud.

The questionnaires were composed of 100 verbs or items, 329
 and these items were evaluated on a scale of scores from 1 330
 to 7. The lowest scores corresponded to verbs that, in the 331
 opinion of the participants, implied very little movement 332
 (e.g., *to vegetate*), and the highest scores were linked to 333
 verbs that involved a lot of movement (e.g., *to train*). The 334
 participants could use the different scores to adjust their 335
 responses so they were as accurate as possible. 336

Procedure 337

Each questionnaire was sent to the same number of students of 338
 each course for the psychology and speech therapy degrees at 339
 the University of Oviedo, by email. 340

After a few days, those who did not have a sufficient num- 341
 ber of answers (a minimum of 20) were sent to other students 342
 of different university degrees. 343

In the emails, potential participants were informed that the 344
 questionnaire was a completely anonymous test in which there 345
 were no correct or incorrect answers. 346

The instructions received by the participants for the com- 347
 pletion of each questionnaire were as follows: 348

The next questionnaire aims to measure the degree 349
 of the motor component of the verbs that appear 350
 below. Your task is to assess, on a scale of 1 to 7, 351
 the amount of mobility that each of these actions 352
 entails. Understanding as mobility, the amount of 353
 displacement and/or movement of the different parts 354
 of the body (fingers, hands, legs, etc.) involved in its 355
 realization. You must indicate with a 1 the verbs 356
 with a low motor component (e.g., *to reason*), and 357Q6
 with a 7 those that have a high motor component 358
 (e.g., *to plough*). 359
 360

In each questionnaire, the example verbs were varied so 361
 that they did not coincide with the words included as items, 362
 since they could have an influence in the scores of the partic- 363
 ipants. The assessment of the example words was carried out 364
 in other questionnaires. 365

All the items had to be answered obligatorily, and the 366
 participants were allowed to use the dictionary if they 367
 were unsure of the meaning of any one of them. Once 368
 the questionnaire was finished, participants were to send 369
 their answers by clicking on the Send button. The scores 370
 provided by all the participants for each item were col- 371
 lected in an Excel spreadsheet created by the program. 372
 Each questionnaire was rated by between 24 and 28 par- 373
 ticipants. The raw responses of the participants, as well as 374
 the complete database, can be consulted and downloaded 375
 from the website <http://inco.grupos.uniovi.es/enlaces>. In 376
 addition, the averages and standard deviations for each 377
 verb are provided in Appendix B. 378

379 Data collection from the questionnaires was carried out
 380 between February 2016 and December 2017.

381 **Results**

382 The average (motor component grade), standard deviations,
 383 and the upper and lower range of the scores of the 4,565 verbs
 384 were calculated from the database.

385 To verify that there were no significant differences be-
 386 tween the ages of the 52 groups of participants, a univar-
 387 iate variance analysis test was performed. Age was the
 388 dependent variable, and questionnaire was a fixed effect.
 389 The results obtained were not significant ($p = 1$), which
 390 indicates that the ages of the participants did not differ
 391 between groups.

392 With regard to the gender of the participants, the aver-
 393 age percentage of female participants (84.6%) was much
 394 higher than that of male participants (15.4%). A maxi-
 395 mum of 25 and a minimum of 16 women responded to
 396 each questionnaire ($SD = 2.18$). It was not necessary to
 397 eliminate the data of any participant, according to the
 398 variability criterion that was used. The maximum and
 399 minimum of the total of the scores given to the verbs by
 400 each participant were calculated, and in all there was
 401 variation.

402 For the analysis of the scores awarded to each verb, the
 403 intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) was applied. This
 404 is considered the most appropriate way to quantify the
 405 reliability between different measurements associated
 406 with numerical variables. The results of this statistic os-
 407 cillate between 0 and 1, with a value of 1 referring to the
 408 maximum possible agreement between the scores, and a
 409 value of 0 making reference to no agreement. The advan-
 410 tage of this test is that it avoids dependency of the order
 411 of the correlation coefficient, since it estimates the aver-
 412 age of the correlations among all the possible orderings of
 413 the pairs of observations. In contrast, the correlation co-
 414 efficient only quantifies the linear association between
 415 two scores, but not the degree of agreement between
 416 them. One must bear in mind that variability can be due
 417 to two components: differences between the different par-
 418 ticipants, and differences between the measurements of
 419 each participant. The ICC is the proportion of the total
 420 variability that is due to the variability between partici-
 421 pants (Pita-Fernández, Pérttega-Díaz, & Rodríguez
 422 Maseda, 2003).

423 This index was calculated for each of the different ques-
 424 tionnaires, along with Cronbach's alpha, because it is interest-
 425 ing to check that there is agreement between the scores
 426 assigned by all the participants who responded to the same
 427 item.

Table 1 Measures of reliability of the questionnaires

Questionnaire	Average Measures ICC	Sig. (ICC)	Cronbach's Alpha	
1	.949	.001	.959	t1.3
2	.934	.001	.953	t1.4
3	.943	.001	.957	t1.5
4	.937	.001	.956	t1.6
5	.943	.001	.962	t1.7
6	.916	.001	.946	t1.8
7	.936	.001	.961	t1.9
8	.903	.001	.931	t1.10
9	.911	.001	.937	t1.11
10	.924	.001	.949	t1.12
11	.930	.001	.949	t1.13
12	.932	.001	.952	t1.14
13	.901	.001	.935	t1.15
14	.906	.001	.937	t1.16
15	.916	.001	.941	t1.17
16	.951	.001	.961	t1.18
17	.910	.001	.936	t1.19
18	.917	.001	.945	t1.20
19	.922	.001	.945	t1.21
20	.916	.001	.943	t1.22
21	.910	.001	.937	t1.23
22	.903	.001	.928	t1.24
23	.930	.001	.949	t1.25
24	.937	.001	.954	t1.26
25	.917	.001	.941	t1.27
26	.875	.001	.921	t1.28
27	.941	.001	.941	t1.29
28	.912	.001	.937	t1.30
29	.914	.001	.947	t1.31
30	.883	.001	.936	t1.32
31	.886	.001	.935	t1.33
32	.904	.001	.954	t1.34
33	.887	.001	.945	t1.35
34	.888	.001	.947	t1.36
35	.922	.001	.943	t1.37
36	.933	.001	.952	t1.38
37	.963	.001	.971	t1.39
38	.963	.001	.977	t1.40
39	.934	.001	.958	t1.41
40	.944	.001	.964	t1.42
41	.921	.001	.952	t1.43
42	.950	.001	.966	t1.44
43	.942	.001	.958	t1.45
44	.948	.001	.964	t1.46
45	.948	.001	.964	t1.47
46	.943	.001	.959	t1.48
47	.958	.001	.968	t1.49
48	.960	.001	.969	t1.50
49	.962	.001	.970	t1.51

t1.52 **Table 1** (continued)

Questionnaire	Average Measures ICC	Sig. (ICC)	Cronbach's Alpha
t1.53 50	.958	.001	969
51	.961	.001	971
52	.959	.001	968

Average measures of a random-effect model for a factor in which the effects of people are random.

428 According to assessment of the ICCs, in this case there was
 429 a very good correspondence (>.90) between the scores of the
 Q7 430 participants (see Table 1).

431 Doing this same test for the total of the 4,565 verbs jointly,
 432 we also obtained a high concordance between the participants
 433 for each item (ICC = .903, $p < .001$).

434 To establish the concurrent validity of the present
 435 work, and because, to date, as far as we know, there has
 436 been no complete database to evaluate this variable, we
 437 compared the results to data collected by other re-
 438 searchers for a work already published (Herrera &
 439 Cuetos, 2012).

440 For this purpose, a selection of 50 verbs was made that
 441 coincided with those included in this work (see the compar-
 442 ison in Table 2), and a simple linear correlation was made,
 443 obtaining a Pearson's r value of .864, which shows that there
 444 was a high positive correlation.

445 The final database, which can be consulted and
 446 downloaded from the website <http://inco.grupos.uniovi.es/enlaces>,
 447 has been completed with age-of-acquisition
 448 (AoA) data taken from Alonso et al. (2016), as well as
 449 with data on frequency, logarithm of frequency, length in
 450 letters and syllables, orthographic and phonological
 451 neighborhood, familiarity, imageability, and concreteness,
 452 all taken from the EsPal database (Duchon, Perea,
 453 Sebastián-Gallés, Martí, & Carreiras, 2013).

454 **Discussion**

455 During the last few years, several investigations have demon-
 456 strated differences in the processing of verbs and nouns in

t2.1 **Table 2** Values of the 50 common stimuli used to measure concurrent validity

	Average	SD	Min	Max
t2.3 Herrera & Cuetos (2012)	3.62	1.75	1.14	6.86
t2.4 Present study	3.55	1.37	1.49	6.44

both healthy people (Hauk et al., 2004) and patients with
 different disorders (Bak & Hodges, 2004; Cotelli et al.,
 2006; Damasio & Tranel, 1993; Druks, 2002; Silveri &
 Ciccarelli, 2007).

These studies suggest that the frontal lobe, specifically
 the motor regions, may be involved in the processing of
 actions, especially those whose meaning implies a high
 degree of movement (Brass et al., 2007). Some explana-
 tions, such as the embodiment theory, maintain that seman-
 tic information related to movement in some verbs is rep-
 resented within the motor and sensory systems. Other au-
 thors (Mahon & Caramazza, 2008; Mahon & Hickok,
 2016) have defended a “softer” version, the
 “disembodiment” theory, which accepts that information
 relating to one verb may be distributed through specific
 systems of multiple modalities, including the motor system,
 but that a reduction in sensorimotor information would
 mean that the processing will rely more on information of
 other modalities.

In any case, research carried out in patients with
 Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and pri-
 mary cervical dystonia shows difficulties in these people
 to process verbs with a high motor component (Bayram
 et al., 2018; Cousins et al., 2018; Fernandino et al., 2013;
 Herrera & Cuetos, 2012) which, in the case of PD, im-
 prove with medication (Cuetos & Herrera, 2013; Herrera
 et al., 2015).

However, despite all the available research on the pro-
 cessing of motor and abstract verbs, until now there has
 not been a single database in any language that would
 allow for querying and unifying data about this semantic
 property of actions.

The norm set associated with this work provides sub-
 jective data on the motor component for a total of 4,565
 verbs in Spanish. The study was carried out via surveys
 filled out by 152 university students. The value of the
 motor content was obtained by calculating average scores
 from the responses of the participants. At a statistical
 level, it demonstrated a high reliability calculated using
 the ICC, which allows the degree of agreement between
 the scores of different participants to be calculated, as
 well as in terms of Cronbach's alpha. Convergent valid-
 ity, also appropriate, was obtained by a correlation anal-
 ysis with the motor component values obtained from the
 study of Herrera and Cuetos (2012). These features make
 the database a useful tool for research.

The availability of these norms is crucial, because
 they provide standardized values for this variable,
 avoiding the need to use time to collect these data and
 allowing for the replication of results, which will provide
 great possibilities for the investigation of language in
 patients with PD or other disorders that cause damage
 to the frontal lobe (e.g., fronto-temporal dementia).

510 **Appendix A**

511

t3.1 **Table 3** Number, gender, and age of participants in the 52 questionnaires

t3.3	Questionnaire	Number of Participants	Gender				Age			
			Men	% Men	Women	% Women	Average	SD	Max.	Min.
t3.4	1	26	4	15	22	85	22.04	2.03	29	19
t3.5	2	26	5	19	21	81	21.92	1.90	29	20
t3.6	3	26	6	23	20	77	22.42	4.86	45	19
t3.7	4	28	7	25	21	75	22.61	5.13	45	18
t3.8	5	27	7	26	20	74	21.78	5.15	45	18
t3.9	6	27	8	30	19	70	22.22	5.02	45	18
t3.10	7	27	3	11	24	89	22.59	5.20	45	18
t3.11	8	29	4	14	25	86	22.83	4.92	45	19
t3.12	9	26	4	15	22	85	22.35	2.43	29	18
t3.13	10	26	2	08	24	92	21.96	2.46	29	19
t3.14	11	26	3	12	23	88	22.19	3.91	40	20
t3.15	12	27	5	19	22	81	21.67	2.76	35	20
t3.16	13	26	3	12	23	88	22.35	3.90	40	20
t3.17	14	26	5	19	21	81	21.67	2.76	35	20
t3.18	15	26	3	12	23	88	22.46	3.93	40	20
t3.19	16	25	4	16	21	84	22.35	4.60	40	20
t3.20	17	27	2	07	25	93	21.70	1.88	28	20
t3.21	18	27	5	19	22	81	21.52	2.74	35	20
t3.22	19	26	2	08	24	92	21.54	1.45	27	19
t3.23	20	25	3	12	22	88	21.77	3.05	35	20
t3.24	21	26	2	08	22	92	21.81	1.88	28	20
t3.25	22	26	4	15	24	85	21.77	3.05	35	20
t3.26	23	26	5	19	21	81	21.81	1.83	28	20
t3.27	24	26	5	19	21	81	21.65	1.72	28	20
t3.28	25	27	5	19	22	81	21.78	1.80	28	20
t3.29	26	26	5	19	21	81	21.65	1.72	28	20
t3.30	27	26	5	19	21	81	21.65	1.72	28	20
t3.31	28	26	5	19	21	81	21.81	1.83	28	20
t3.32	29	26	2	08	24	92	22.00	2.45	32	20
t3.33	30	25	2	08	23	92	22.00	2.50	32	20
t3.34	31	26	2	08	24	92	21.96	2.46	32	20
t3.35	32	26	2	08	24	92	21.96	2.46	32	20
t3.36	33	26	2	08	24	92	21.85	2.38	32	20
t3.37	34	26	2	08	24	92	21.85	2.38	32	20
t3.38	35	24	2	08	22	92	22.33	4.17	40	20
t3.39	36	24	2	08	22	92	22.33	4.17	40	20
t3.40	37	24	1	04	23	96	22.17	3.05	30	19
t3.41	38	23	2	09	21	91	22.17	3.14	30	19
t3.42	39	24	3	13	21	88	22.33	2.82	30	19
t3.43	40	23	3	13	20	87	22.22	2.76	30	19
t3.44	41	24	3	13	21	88	21.71	2.68	30	19
t3.45	42	23	3	13	20	87	21.74	2.80	30	19
t3.46	43	23	4	17	19	83	23.04	4.25	37	19
t3.47	44	23	4	17	19	83	23.04	4.16	37	19
t3.48	45	23	5	22	18	78	22.52	2.74	30	19
t3.49	46	23	5	22	18	78	22.52	2.74	30	19
t3.50	47	23	6	26	17	74	22.26	3.22	33	19
t3.51	48	23	5	22	18	78	21.74	2.22	28	19
t3.52	49	23	4	17	19	83	21.78	3.90	37	19
t3.53	50	23	5	22	18	78	22.26	4.55	37	19
t3.54	51	23	5	22	18	78	22.00	3.84	37	19
t3.55	52	23	7	30	16	70	22.00	3.88	37	19
t3.56	<i>Average</i>	25.23	3.88	15.4	21.35	84.6	22.07	3.1		

SD: Standard deviation; *Max*: Maximum; *Min*: Minimum.

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