PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

15

The Expression of Manner, Means and Instrument

Expresión del modo, los medios y el instrumento.

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." Rhett Butler's parting line in the 1939 film of *Gone with the Wind* is perhaps the most famous in any film, and it is a neat way into our topic. As Huddleston and Pullum point out, the adverb *frankly* does not say how Rhett gives or does not give anything; it comments on the speech act itself. Contrast it with *He spoke frankly about his addiction*, where *frankly* tells us in what way he spoke. One word, two very different jobs. Learning to tell them apart, and to say *how* things are done, is exactly what this topic is about.

Welcome to Topic 15: The Expression of Manner, Means and Instrument. In order to address it, I will divide the topic into five main sections. Firstly, I will define the three notions, place them within the system of adjuncts, and examine the expression of manner: adverbs, prepositional phrases, clauses and non-finite constructions. Secondly, I will analyse the expression of means. Thirdly, I will study the expression of instrument and its relation to *by* and *with*. Fourthly, I will contrast English with Spanish and review the typical errors of Spanish-speaking learners. Finally, I will reflect on the pedagogical and didactic implications of this content within our current educational framework.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted for the preparation of this topic. These include: Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvik's *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*; Huddleston and Pullum's *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* and their *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*; Fillmore's article "The Case for Case"; Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad and Finegan's *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*; and Swan's *Practical English Usage*, as well as the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* and its Companion Volume of 2020. I have also drawn on the LOMLOE (Organic Law 3/2020, which amends Organic Law 2/2006), Real Decreto 217/2022 and 243/2022, and Decreto 110/2022 and 109/2022 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, as amended in 2023.