

# Ans y antes: de la anterioridad a la refutación en catalán y en español

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**Summary:** The present paper compares the uses of Cat. *ans* and Sp. *antes* as a single marker and as a component of parenthetical connectives. They share the same Latin origin, the spatial-temporal adverb ANTE ('before, prior to'), and have developed to a different extent temporal, comparative and contrastive uses. Although in earlier stages *ans* and *antes* had refutative values on their own, nowadays these meanings are found mainly in parenthetical connectives containing the adverb *ans* / *antes*, namely *ans bé* / *ans al contrari* in Catalan and *antes bien* / *antes al contrario* in Spanish. In spite of their apparent similarity and verbatim correspondence in both Romance languages analyzed, a synchronic corpus analysis reveals differences in the frequency and distribution of these markers, both intra- and cross-linguistically. Regarding frequency, *ans al contrari* is more common in Catalan, whereas *antes bien* appears more often in Spanish. In terms of distribution, distinct positional preferences are found in each language, as well as specific syntactic-discursive combinations.

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