

**Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Palackého**



**Intensifiers in English and in Spanish: A Contrastive  
Corpus-based Study**

**(Bakalářská práce)**

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## **Abstract**

According to various approaches, the polysemous English degree modifier *quite* can have either meaning of amplifier (maximizer) or downtoner (compromizer) (Quirk et al. 1985, 590 and 598), amplifier/intensifier or diminisher/downtoner (Biber et al. 1999, 556) and Paradis (1997, 26–28) labels the different meanings of *quite* as reinforcers (maximizers) and attenuators (moderators). The polysemy of *quite* is also reflected in *LDCE* and *OALD*. Both dictionaries say that *quite* functioning as a maximizer (e.g. *absolutely*) as well as *quite* in a sense of a moderator (e.g. *fairly*) most frequently appear in British English. While in American English *quite* in the meaning of a booster (e.g. *very*) prevails.

Because of the relatively high rate of zero correspondences and the ambiguity of particular equivalents appearing in the previous parallel corpus based research on *quite* seen through its Czech equivalents (Martinková 2013), the thesis investigates *quite* through the lenses of another language, namely Spanish. More specifically, it examines the Spanish translation equivalents of *quite* in the Czech National Corpus – Intercorp. It mainly focuses on comparing of meanings of *quite* in British and American English and verifying of the dictionary statements. Apart from a relatively high number of zero correspondences the results also showed that the most frequent meaning of *quite* is a booster.

## **Key words**

adverbial intensifier, pre-modification, polysemy of *quite*, Spanish equivalent, parallel corpus Intercorp

## **Anotace**

Polysémantický adverbiální intenzifikátor *quite* se podle výsledků předchozích výzkumů (Quirk et al. 1985, Biber et al. 1999, Paradis 1997) může objevovat ve významu tzv. *maximizeru* (tj. intenzifikátor vyjadřující maximální možnou míru vlastnosti), *moderátoru* (tj. intenzifikátor devalvující míru vlastnosti) či *boosteru* (tj. intenzifikátor zvyšující hodnotu vlastnosti směrem nahoru). Podle anglických výkladových slovníků *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDCE)* a *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)* se *quite* v britské angličtině vyskytuje nejvíce ve významu *maximizeru* a *moderátoru*, zatímco v americké angličtině převažuje význam *boosteru*.

Jelikož předešlý výzkum, kdy byly významy *quite* porovnávány v paralelním korpusu prostřednictvím češtiny (Martinková 2013), ukázal relativně vysoký výskyt případů, kdy *quite* bylo v překladu vynecháno a zároveň se v daných překladech objevily dvojznačné ekvivalenty, tato práce si vzala za cíl porovnat významy *quite* skrze španělštinu za použití paralelního korpusu Intercorp. Výzkum byl konkrétně soustředěn na porovnávání významů *quite* objevujících se v britské a americké angličtině a jeho účelem bylo také ověřit pravdivost tvrzení daných anglických výkladových slovníků. Kromě vysoké míry nulových ekvivalentů *quite* je z výsledků studie patrné, že nejčastěji se *quite* objevuje ve významu *boosteru*, a to jak v americké, tak v britské angličtině.

## **Klíčová slova**

adverbiální intenzifikátor, premodifikace, polysémie *quite*, španělský ekvivalent, paralelní korpus Intercorp

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# 1 Introduction

This parallel corpus-based study will focus on the polysemy of the English degree modifier *quite* and will investigate its meanings through Spanish translation equivalents. The main purpose is to explore the role of *quite* in discourse.

Firstly I would like to foreshadow a general classification of degree modifiers. According to Paradis (1997, 26–28) we can differentiate either bounded totality modifiers which include degree reinforcers called maximizers (*quite*, *absolutely*, *completely*, *perfectly*, *totally*, *entirely*, *utterly*) and degree attenuators named approximators (*almost*); or unbounded scalar modifiers comprising of reinforcers: boosters (*very*, *terribly*, *extremely*, *most*, *awfully*, *jolly*, *highly*, *frightfully*) and attenuators: moderators (*quite*, *rather*, *pretty*, *fairly*) as well as attenuators: diminishers (*a bit*, *a little bit*, *slightly*, *a little*, *somewhat*). The classification implies that *quite* can be considered either reinforcer (maximizer) or attenuator (moderator).

Also Quirk et al. (1985, 590 and 598) distinguish two different meanings of *quite*. It is either *quite* in sense of ‘absolutely’, ‘completely’, i.e. an amplifier, or *quite* in the meaning of ‘fairly’, ‘rather’, i.e. a downtoner. While Biber et al. (1999, 556) say that *quite* occurring with gradables which do not express any end of scale it means ‘to some extent’ (e.g. *quite nice*) and with non-gradables it has a meaning of ‘completely’ (e.g. *quite motionless*). Biber et al. (1999, 556) also point out that there are many cases in which the meaning of *quite* can be ambiguous (e.g. *quite confident*).

Polysemy of *quite* is also reflected in dictionaries; *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDCE)*<sup>1</sup> differentiates twelve meanings of *quite* and *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (OALD)*<sup>2</sup> distinguishes four. Both dictionaries basically state that in British English *quite* is used mostly in sense of ‘pretty’, ‘fairly, or to a small extent, but not very’, thus in the sense of attenuator, and when it is used with a non-gradable adjective or with an adjective at the end of a scale it has the meaning of ‘absolutely’, ‘completely’, i.e. a maximizer. On

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<sup>1</sup> *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘quite’.

<sup>2</sup> *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘quite’.

the other hand, in American English the meaning of a booster such as ‘very’ prevails.

To sum it up, *quite* has two basic opposite meanings. It can be considered either an amplifier (reinforcer): maximizer/booster or a downtoner (attenuator): moderator/compromizer.

According to Martinková’s presentation (2013) *quite* in British English has a three times higher relative frequency than in American English. Her data confirm that *quite* as a booster appears much more frequently in American English than in British English, but the maximizer use occurs only slightly more often in British than in American English. Another significant finding is that in translations from American English 22% of tokens correspond with negated Czech maximizers (*not quite sure*) while in British translations in 20% of cases *quite* modifies an adjective with negative prefix (*unable, unheard of*) and in 29.8% of cases it is translated by a maximizer. A surprising fact is that 37.4% of tokens of *quite* in British fiction as well as 27.3% of tokens in American fiction were omitted in translation. Another limit associated with identification of meaning of *quite* is that some of the Czech equivalents are ambiguous, namely, *dost* (‘pretty/fairly’) and *docela* (‘entirely/rather’).

Because of the rate of zero correspondences and the ambiguity of particular Czech equivalents of *quite* I will investigate *quite* through the lenses of another language, namely Spanish, to rule out the possibility of translation effects. More specifically, I will examine the Spanish translation equivalents of *quite* in the Czech National Corpus – Intercorp through the interface KonText. The general interest of the thesis will lie in the comparing of meanings of *quite* in British and American English and verifying of the dictionary statements.

Firstly I am going to create three subcorpora of texts translated from English to Spanish and vice versa: original British fiction, original American fiction and English target texts. To select concrete texts of subcorpora I will use the interface Park to see which texts are available in English and in Spanish.

According to Palacios Martínez’s study on ICE-GB (2009, 190), *quite* mostly modifies an adjective, therefore I will search for *quite* in pre.adjectival positions. Since the English-Spanish part of the Intercorp is not very large, to get



more data, I will also search for *quite* followed by an adverb, and a verb, which are the second and third most common cases (Palacios Martínez 2009, 190).

The next section will deal with sorting and analyzing the data. For the purposes of this thesis I will sort the Spanish equivalents with respect to Paradis's classification of English degree modifiers.

## 2 Intensifiers in linguistic literature

The first section will state general definitions of intensifiers which can be found in linguistic dictionaries as well as general characteristics of intensifiers mentioned by Palacios Martínez (2009). Since the definitions and classifications of the intensifiers are not uniform, Section 2.2 will foreshadow and compare the main approaches. Subsequently, Section 2.3 will introduce the basic means of intensification in Spanish as well as general tendencies in translations of intensifiers from English to Spanish.

### 2.1 Intensifiers in general

According to *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*,<sup>3</sup> intensifiers generally include ‘a class of adverbs which have a heightening or lowering effect on meaning of another element in the sentence’ (e.g. *very, definitely, hardly, etc.*). In other words, intensifiers are adverbial elements that have either positive (amplifying) or negative (diminishing) intensifying role.<sup>4</sup>

Palacios Martínez (2009, 180) summarizes that intensifiers include an open class of various lexical items and units which mainly express emotions and a personal attitude of a speaker. They are flexible in their use in a sense that they can modify almost any word or expression and therefore they can occur practically in any position in the clause. Intensifiers also often tend to form collocations and fixed expressions.

### 2.2 Classifications of intensifiers

Dwight Bolinger (1972, 17) uses the term *intensifier* for ‘any device that scales a quality, whether up or down or somewhere between the two’. He divided intensifiers into four groups with respect to their places on the scale.

The first group is called *boosters*. The group includes intensifiers which occupy the upper part of the scale, it means, the intensifiers which express the highest degree (e.g. *complete idiot*) or just a higher degree on the scale (e.g. *terribly selfish*). The second group named *compromisers* covers the middle part of

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<sup>3</sup> *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*, 3<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘intensifier (intensifying)’.

<sup>4</sup> *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*, 3<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘intensifier’.

the scale, therefore the group is relatively neutral because compromisers are ‘often trying to look both ways [up and down on the scale] at once’ (e.g. *fairly happy*) (Bolinger 1972, 17). The third group are *diminishers*; they include the lower part of the scale and they have attenuating character (e.g. *little disposed*). The last set of intensifiers according to Bolinger is called *minimizers*. Minimizers occupy the lower end of the scale, therefore they lower the meaning of the modified item (e.g. *I don’t care an iota for that.*).

Quirk et al. (1985, 445), similarly to Bolinger, define an *intensifier* as a scaling device, most commonly a modifying adverb,<sup>5</sup> which co-occurs with a gradable item. Quirk et al. divide intensifiers into two main groups: *amplifiers* that ‘scale upwards from an assumed norm’ and *downtoners* which ‘have a general lowering effect’. These groups are further subdivided into six subgroups. All the subgroups are illustrated in **Table 1**. Quirk et al. (1985, 447) also mention a third group named *emphasizers* (e.g. *really, indeed, just*). The *emphasizers* often have a reinforcing effect but they do not express any degree and they can co-occur with non-gradable items, thus they are not considered true intensifiers.

Intensifiers	
Amplifiers	Downtoners
Maximizers ( <i>completely</i> )	Approximators ( <i>almost</i> )
Boosters ( <i>very much</i> )	Compromisers ( <i>more or less</i> )
	Diminishers ( <i>partly</i> )
	Minimizers ( <i>hardly</i> )

**Table 1: Quirk et al.’s (1985) classification of intensifiers**

While looking at **Table 1**, one can notice that Bolinger and Quirk et al. use the term *booster* differently. Bolinger uses the term in a more general meaning and by the term *booster* he labels all the intensifiers from the whole upper part of the scale, it means all the intensifiers which express a higher degree as well as the highest degree on the scale. On the other hand, according to Quirk et al. the term *booster* has a more specific function. *Boosters* according to Quirk et al. include only intensifiers which denote a higher degree on the scale, whereas degree

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<sup>5</sup> Intensification can be occasionally realized also by noun phrases and prepositional phrases (Quirk et al. 1985, 590).

modifiers implying the upper extreme (i.e. the highest point on the scale) are classified as a different subgroup, called *maximizers*. Quirk et al.'s classification of *compromisers*, *diminishers* and *minimizers* is similar to the Bolinger's one, but Quirk et al. additionally distinguish also another subgroup of *approximators* which oscillate between emphasis and restriction (Quirk et al. 1985, 485).

Another classification of intensifiers is presented by D. J. Allerton who uses the term *intensifier* as 'a particular semantic type of adjective modifier' (1987, 16). Contrary to Quirk et al., whose subdivision concentrates rather on the intensifying force of the particular groups, Allerton classifies the intensifiers with respect to their various semantic features. He distinguishes three semantic types of intensifiers: the most common is the type which corresponds to degree adverbials (e.g. *rather/very resentful*), then he mentions also minor types referring to manner (e.g. *openly hostile*) and aspect (e.g. *psychologically harmful*) (1987, 16–17). Additionally, Allerton takes into consideration the notion of 'gradability' which is 'applied in a very general way with the suggestion that some adjectives are gradable and therefore they can take degree intensifiers (and have a comparative form), while others are non-gradable'<sup>6</sup> (1987, 18). Allerton divides the degree modifiers into four following subgroups (1987, 19–21):

**Scalar modifiers** relate to degrees of a mental scale from immeasurable high to zero (e.g. *extremely, very, pretty, rather, fairly, somewhat, slightly, not at all*). Allerton's subdivision of the group corresponds to Quirk et al.'s subgroups excluding *maximizers*. Allerton calls the subgroups *boosters, moderators, diminishers* and *zeroisers*. In addition, he also includes the comparatives and the superlatives (e.g. *more beautiful / nicer picture, the most frightening/ the best experience, less obvious consequence, least significant event, too near the fire*).

**Telic modifiers** include modifiers that implicitly indicate to a target which 'may be reached or missed by a narrow or wide margin' (Allerton 2001, 163) (e.g. *easily, barely, only, just, hardly, virtually, nearly*). Allerton's *telic modifiers* are equivalent to what Quirk et al. call *approximators* (e.g. *nearly, almost*) and *minimizers* (e.g. *hardly, rarely*).

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<sup>6</sup> See examples in Table 2.

**Abslutive modifiers** express the ‘superlative’ degree of adjectives (e.g. *absolutely, entirely, utterly, completely*). The group corresponds to Quirk et al.’s *maximizers*. The differences among the scalar, absolutive and telic degree modifiers as well as the non-gradable group are illustrated in **Table 2**.

Non-gradable		<i>?very, ?completely, ?only just</i>	<i>jumbo/mini</i>
Gradable	Scalar	<i>very, ?completely, ?only just</i>	<i>large/small</i>
	Abslutive	<i>?very, completely, ?only just</i>	<i>huge/tiny</i>
	Telic	<i>?very, ?completely, only just</i>	<i>sufficient</i>

**Table 2: Illustration of ‘gradability’ of adjectives (Allerton 2001, 163)**

**Differential modifiers** modify comparatives and they indicate the difference between the modified item and some reference point (e.g. *far, much, a lot, marginally, slightly, a bit*). Contrary to Allerton, Quirk et al. do not distinguish any individual group of intensifiers modifying comparatives.

The previous subdivision reflected the differences and similarities in Allerton’s and Quirk et al.’s classifications of intensifiers. However, it is also important to say that Allerton himself considers his approach to be clearly an over-simplification (1987, 18), since not all gradable adjectives can be combined with all degree modifiers (e.g. *very surprising, absolutely amazing* vs. *?absolutely surprising, ?very amazing*), thus further semantic sub-classification is needed.

Carita Paradis (1997, 14) says the term *intensifier* ‘is an awkward and misleading term’ because intensification basically evokes reinforcement and Bolinger (1972) as well as Quirk et al. (1985) and Allerton (1987) use the term not only for the modifiers which have a reinforcing character but also for the modifiers which attenuate the meaning. That is why Paradis discards the term *intensifier* and she uses the term *degree modifier* instead (1997, 14).

Paradis (1997, 26–28) combines in her subdivision of degree modifiers the scalar model<sup>7</sup> and the approaches of Quirk et al. (1985) and Allerton (1987). Firstly, she groups together modifiers which express more or less the same degree

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<sup>7</sup> This model is based on the principle of ordering degree modifiers according to a scalar fashion from modifiers indicating a highly reinforcing value to items indicating an attenuating position (e.g. *completely > very > fairly > slightly*). However, there are some problems in labelling degree modifiers as a scalar set because of the fuzzy nature of degree modifiers. See Paradis (1997, 22–23).

and divides them into five paradigms which can be seen in **Table 3**. The paradigms are classified into two basic levels of degree according to their grading force. The levels are the same as Quirk et al.'s: *reinforcers* (i.e. *amplifiers*) and *attenuators* (i.e. *downtoners*), even the subdivision corresponds except for *minimizers*.

Degree	Totality modifiers (bounded)	Scalar modifiers (unbounded)
Reinforcer	<b>maximizer</b> <i>quite, absolutely, completely, perfectly, totally, entirely, utterly</i>	<b>booster</b> <i>very, terribly, extremely, most, awfully, jolly, highly, frightfully</i>
Attenuator	<b>approximator</b> <i>almost</i>	<b>moderator</b> <i>quite, rather, pretty, fairly</i>
		<b>diminisher</b> <i>a (little) bit, slightly, a little, somewhat</i>

**Table 3:** Paradis's (1997) subdivision of totality and scalar modifiers combined with levels of degree

Besides the levels of degree, Paradis takes into consideration the semantic features of the modified items. Her further classification of degree modifiers is based on the property of **boundedness**; it is 'a high-level schematic domain mode, which ... configures a wide range of different content domains [and]... it is associated with basic experience of countability, aspectuality and gradability' (Paradis 2001, 3). Thus it involves nouns, verbs and adjectives. In the case of adjectives the boundedness is situated in the domain of gradability (Paradis 2001, 2). Paradis (1997, 43) considers the gradability to be a semantic phenomenon perceived as a possible variability of a gradable word in intensity or extent; gradable words can be therefore attenuated or reinforced. Gradable adjectives are either unbounded, i.e. **scalar adjectives** (e.g. *good, fast, long*), or bounded, i.e. **extreme adjectives** (e.g. *excellent, huge, minute*), or **limit adjectives** (e.g. *true, sober, sufficient*). According to the gradability type of modified adjective Paradis distinguishes two main groups of degree modifiers which are also illustrated in **Table 3**. The first group are **totality modifiers** which pre-modify extreme bounded adjectives (e.g. *absolutely terrible*) and limit bounded adjectives (e.g. *completely dead*). The second group are **scalar modifiers** pre-modifying scalar unbounded adjectives (e.g. *very good, quite fast, fairly long*) (2001, 4–5).

As Paradis says, ‘the relation between the semantic features of the adjective and its modifier has to be harmonious’ (1997, 26). However, there are some problems because of semantic flexibility of adjectives, namely that the property of boundedness is not fixed and it can be changed through **contextual modulation** (Paradis 2001, 9). There seems to be a general tendency of limit/extreme adjectives to take on a scalar interpretation rather than vice versa (e.g. *I’m absolutely certain that he is lying – very, very certain.*) (Paradis 2001, 11).

Biber et al. (1999, 554) consider *intensifiers* to be ‘degree adverbs that increase intensity’ and they also call them *amplifiers*. Some of the *amplifiers* modify gradable items, they usually express a degree on a scale (e.g. *more, very, so, extremely*) or the endpoint of a scale (e.g. *totally, absolutely, quite*). The *amplifiers* expressing the end of a scale can also modify non-gradables (e.g. *quite motionless*) (Biber et al. 1999, 554–556).

Biber et al. (1999, 555) mention the group of *diminishers* (*downtoners*) as well as Bolinger, Quirk et al. and Allerton. However, unlike them, Biber et al. do not regard *diminishers* or *downtoners* as adverbial intensifiers. *Diminishers* are according to Biber et al. (1999, 555) ‘degree adverbs which scale down the effect of the modified item’ (e.g. *less, slightly, somewhat, rather, quite*).

### 2.3 Intensification in Spanish language

Spanish linguists claim that they mostly focus on *español coloquial* (‘colloquial Spanish’)<sup>8</sup> while describing intensifying procedures. Albelda (2005, 54–56) summarizes that the main intensifying procedures investigated in the Spanish language have either semantic or rhetoric character. The **semantic description** of intensification includes modifying processes of quantification, gradation and superlativization, while the **rhetoric explanation** involves expressivity, emphasis and *mise en relief* (‘means to engage somebody’s attention’).<sup>9</sup> Albelda (2005, 61–

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<sup>8</sup> As Serena (2007, 161) explains, the definitions of the term ‘colloquial Spanish’ vary and the interpretations can indistinctly refer to “terms such as ‘language’, ‘speech’, ‘discourse’, etc., on one side, and ‘colloquial’, ‘spoken’, ‘conversational’, etc. on the other side.”. However, in this case ‘colloquial Spanish’ is considered a common usage of a particular linguistic system used by speakers of a particular society (Spanish society) in everyday situations (Briz 1996, 28–29), in other words, it is a language bounded to situation not to characteristics of the speaker (i.e. it does not depend on social status, region, etc.).

<sup>9</sup> *Mise en relief* is a term similar to emphasis; its main function is to stress the expression by means of tone quality, phonic elements or graphic elements (Albelda 2005, 51).

62) also presents a classification of intensifying procedures in Spanish colloquial language with respect to different language levels. The main procedures described by Albelda can be summarized as in **Table 4**.

Language level	Intensifying procedures
Morphological	Suffixation Prefixation
Lexical	Intensified lexemes Phraseology: fixed expressions, idiomatic lexical bundles, routine formulas and sayings
Syntactic	Simple modifiers (e.g. adverbial quantifiers) and complex modifiers (e.g. collocations) Intensified syntactic structures Repetition Enumeration
Semantic	Irony Tropes (e.g. metaphors, similes, hyperbolic expressions, etc.)
Phonetic	Prolongation of sounds and relaxed articulation Marked and emphatic pronunciation

**Table 4: Intensifying procedures according to Albelda (2005, 61–62)**

Albelda (2005) does not exactly define the term *intensifier*, she seems to be using the term as ‘a means of intensification’. However, at the lexical language level (illustrated in **Table 4**) she mentions a group of *intensified lexemes*<sup>10</sup> which among others include also subgroup of adverbs (Albelda 2005, 80) and the adverbs could be regarded as semantically corresponding to degree adverbs. Another subgroup of modifying adverbs mentioned by Albelda is included in the group of *simple modifiers* at the syntactic language level (2005, 92).

Since Paradis’s classification of intensifiers seems the most systematic of all the mentioned approaches, for the purposes of this thesis I sorted the Spanish equivalents of English degree adverbs with respect to it (see **Table 5** and **Table 6**). I used the list of adverbs by Albelda (2005, 80 and 92) and translated them (into English) according to *Diccionario de la univesidad de Chicago Inglés-*

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<sup>10</sup> *Intensified lexemes* are nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs which have a degree of intensity included in their meaning (e.g. *currar* [work a lot], *encantar* [like a lot, love]) or they do not have an equivalent which would be less intensified (e.g. *abominable* [abominable, detestable]) or there are words that substitute the meaning of ‘grande’ [big, large] for ‘muy’ [very, really, jolly] (e.g. *gigantesco* [gigantic]), etc. (Albelda 2005, 78–79).



*Español y Español-Inglés*. Then I categorized the equivalents into the subgroups recognized by Paradis and I added the translations of attenuators which Albelda does not mention in her study.

Degree	Scalar modifiers
Reinforcer	<b>booster</b> <i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly] <i>extraordinariamente</i> [wonderfully, terribly, extraordinarily] <i>horriblemente</i> [horribly, terribly] <i>rabiosamente</i> [terribly, awfully, extremely] <i>extremadamente</i> [extremely, highly] <i>sumamente</i> [extremely, highly] <i>más</i> [more] <i>mucho</i> [jolly, a lot] <i>espantosamente</i> [frightfully, amazingly] <i>enormemente</i> [enormously, hugely, awfully] <i>horrosamente</i> [frightfully, horribly] <i>impresionantemente</i> [impressively, stunningly] <i>condenadamente</i> [bloody]
Attenuator	<b>moderator</b> <i>bastante</i> [quite, rather, fairly, enough] <i>considerable</i> [pretty]
	<b>diminisher</b> <i>un poco</i> [a (little) bit, a little, slightly, somewhat] <i>ligeramente</i> [slightly]

**Table 5: Spanish equivalents of scalar modifiers**

Degree	Totality modifiers
Reinforcer	<b>maximizer</b> <i>totalmente, total</i> [totally, quite, completely, utterly] <i>absolutamente</i> [absolutely] <i>completamente</i> [completely, utterly] <i>perfectamente</i> [perfectly] <i>enteramente</i> [entirely, completely]
Attenuator	<b>approximator</b> <i>casi</i> [almost]

**Table 6: Spanish equivalents of totality modifiers**

Regarding general tendencies associated with translating of English degree modifiers into Spanish, it is worth mentioning Rocío Baños (2013) who explored

adverbial intensifiers in fictional dialogue, namely in the TV series *Friends*. Using a parallel corpus of original and Spanish dubbed episodes of the *Friends* sitcom, she investigated the characteristics of the intensifiers in Spanish dubbing.

The results of Baños's research (2013, 534) show that out of a total of 157 adverbial intensifiers, 'so' is the most frequent intensifier (52.23%), followed by 'really' (26.75%), 'very' (14.01%), 'pretty' (5.10%) and 'totally' (1.91%). As for intensifying procedures used in Spanish dubbing, the original adverbial intensifiers were most commonly translated by means of **degree adverbs** (slightly more than 50% of cases). The second most frequent procedure was an **omission** (19.11%) and **morphological procedures**, using derivational affixes as in (1), took the third place (15.29%). The results are summarized in **Table 7**.

- (1) a) *guapo* [handsome] vs. *guapísimo* [very/the most handsome]  
 b) *feo* [ugly] vs. *feísimo* [really ugly/the ugliest]  
 c) *violento* [violent] vs. *súperviolento* [really violent]

Intensification procedures	Sub-classification of procedures	Total	Total %
Use of degree adverbs/adverbial quantifiers	Adverbial intensifiers (modifiers)	79	50.32%
	Adverbial intensifiers (adverbial)		
	Adverbial downtoners		
Omission of intensification		30	19.11%
Use of morphological resources	Suffixes	24	15.29%
	Prefixes		
Use of lexical-semantic resources	Intensified lexemes	12	7.64%
	Phraseology		
	Metaphor		
Use of exclamative clauses		8	5.10%
Use of other quantifiers	Adjective + noun	2	1.27%
Combination	Adverbial intensifier (modifier) + repetition	2	1.27%
	Adverbial intensifier + suffix		
Total		157	100%

**Table 7: Intensifying procedures used to translate English adverbial intensifiers present in the original version of *Friends* sitcom (Baños 2013, 534)**

In 7.64% of cases Baños identified examples of semantic and lexical intensification including *intensified lexemes* (mainly nouns and adjectives) and

also *phraseological units*. Baños also mentions the less common cases such as use of exclamative clauses (5.10%), use of non-adverbial quantifier (1.27%) and combinations of adverbial intensifier and repetition or adverbial intensifier and suffix (1.27%).

In conclusion, the research shows that literal translation and omission are the most common methods of translation used while translating adverbial intensifiers in Spanish dubbing of *Friends* sitcom. One can object that the rate of omission of intensifiers in translation can be caused by the the effort to achieve the best possible isochrony and lip synchrony in dubbing, however, this is not considered to be the most important reason since there are many other means of intensification in Spanish, such as exclamative clauses, prefixes (e.g. *súper-*), superlative suffixes (e.g. *-ísimo/-ísima*: *guapo* [handsome] vs. *guapísimo* [very/the most handsome]) and also paralinguistic or phonetic-prosodic features (Baños 2013, 540).

### 3 English degree modifier *quite*

Present chapter will focus on the particular English degree modifier *quite*. Firstly it will describe different meanings of *quite* reflected in previously mentioned classifications and it will also refer to various definitions of *quite* stated in English dictionaries. Secondly it will describe syntactic functions of *quite* and the last section of the chapter will summarize previous corpus based findings about *quite*.

#### 3.1 Polysemy of *quite*

According to Quirk et al. (1985, 590 and 598) *quite* appears either in sense of ‘absolutely’, ‘completely’, i.e. an *amplifier (maximizer)* or it can have the meaning of ‘fairly’, ‘rather’, i.e. a *downtoner (compromizer)*. Likewise Biber et al. (1999, 556) say that *quite* is either *intensifier/amplifier* or a *diminisher*. When occurring with gradables which do not express an end of scale, it means ‘to some extent’ (e.g. *quite nice*) and with non-gradables it has a meaning of ‘completely’ (e.g. *quite motionless*). Biber et al. (1999, 556) also point out that there are many cases in which the meaning of *quite* can be ambiguous, e.g. *quite confident*, which can be interpreted either as a moderate or a complete confidence. According to Paradis’s classification (1997, 28) *quite* can be understood either as a *reinforcer (totality modifier, maximizer)* or as an *attenuator (scalar modifier, moderator)*.

It follows that *quite* has two basic opposite meanings. It can be considered either an amplifier (reinforcer), namely maximizer, or as a downtoner (attenuator), namely moderator/compromizer. *Quite* can also have the meaning of a booster.

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDCE)* differentiates twelve meanings of *quite*<sup>11</sup>. In American English *quite* generally means ‘very, but not extremely’ (e.g. *quite well*), while the rest of the meanings (distinguished by *LDCE*) seem to be characteristic especially for the British English. *Quite* in British English can have either the meaning of ‘pretty’ in the sense of ‘fairly, or to a small extent, but not very’ (e.g. *quite good*) or ‘completely’ (e.g. *quite impossible*). In British English *quite* is used also to express ‘a fairly large number or amount’ (e.g. *quite a lot/bit/few*), to point out that something is really good

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<sup>11</sup> *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘quite’.

(e.g. *It was quite a something/quite some something.*)<sup>12</sup>, to indicate that something takes ‘a fairly long time’ (e.g. *We’ve been waiting for quite some time now.*). *Quite* can also show that you agree with someone (e.g. *Quite / quite right / quite so.*)<sup>13</sup> or ‘that you are not angry about something’ (e.g. *That’s quite all right.*) and it can describe that something is very impressive (e.g. *It is quite something.*). When *quite* is negated it has meaning of ‘not exactly’ (e.g. *The play wasn’t quite what we expected.*) or ‘not completely’ (e.g. *Dinner’s almost ready, but not quite.*).

When disambiguating *quite*, the placement of the stress seems to be an important factor. In American English, the head of a phrase pre-modified by *quite* is always more prosodically prominent than *quite* itself while in British English the stress can be placed either on *quite* or on the head of a phrase pre-modified by *quite* and it changes the meaning.<sup>14</sup> Therefore when the emphasis is put on *quite* in expression *It was quite good*, it means it was good, but not very good. On the other hand, when the head of the adjective phrase, i. e. *good*, is stressed, it means it was very good. In British English, when *quite* is used with adjectives like *impossible* or *unacceptable*, it means ‘completely’, and the stress is placed on it. However, according to *LDCE*, British people often use *quite* before adjectives in conversation and in many cases they do not intend to change the meaning – it is just something that people say, e.g. *It’s getting quite late.*

According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (OALD)* *quite* has four meanings.<sup>15</sup> In North American English it means ‘to a great degree; very; really’ (e.g. *I’m quite sorry.*) whereas in British English it can have either the meaning of ‘to some degree’ (e.g. *I quite like opera.*) or ‘to the greatest possible degree’, i.e. completely (e.g. *It was quite amazing.*). The fourth meaning of *quite* is also characteristic of British English and it is used to express agreement with somebody or to show an understanding (e.g. *‘I don’t want to talk about it.’ ‘Quite/Quite so.’*).

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<sup>12</sup> See also example (3) in 3.2.

<sup>13</sup> See also example (5c, d) in 3.2.

<sup>14</sup> *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘quite’; see also Palacios Martínez (2009, 182).

<sup>15</sup> *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., s.v. ‘quite’.

In conclusion, both dictionaries basically state that in British English *quite* is used mostly in sense of ‘pretty’, ‘fairly, or to a small extent, but not very’, therefore in the sense of a **moderator** and when it is used with a non-gradable adjective or with an adjective at the end of a scale it has the meaning of ‘absolutely’, ‘completely’, i.e. a **maximizer**. On the other hand, in American English the meaning of a **booster** such as ‘very’ prevails.

### 3.2 Syntactic functions of *quite*

As Palacios Martínez (2009, 187) says, *quite* can be considered ‘a multi-modifying word’, since it can intensify not only adjectives as in (2a), adverbs (2b) and verbs (2c), but also prepositions (2d), determiners (2e), pronouns (2f) and even whole noun phrases (2g).<sup>16</sup> Its

- (2) a) *It was quite expensive.* (ID20417)  
 b) *Julie told me it was quite recently.* (ID13157)  
 c) *I quite agree with you.* (ID2452)  
 d) *It’s not quite like that.* (ID5819)  
 e) *You owe quite a lot already.* (ID30441)  
 f) *He was quite himself.* (ID36481)  
 g) *It was quite fun.* (ID22592)

In cases when *quite* modifies a noun phrase, the indefinite article should always follow *quite* (Bolinger 1972, 143). Examples of such noun phrases can be seen below in (3).

- (3) a) *It was quite a something.*                      *\*It was a quite something.*  
 b) *They made quite a mess.*                        *\*They made a quite mess.*

However, according to Palacios Martínez’s study (2009, 195–196), there are instances when *quite* and the indefinite article can be inverted. That is, when the noun phrase contains also an adjective, see (4a, a’). Therefore either the adjective

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<sup>16</sup> Examples in (2) are taken from InterCorp – v7 English.

(4a') or the NP (4a) is intensified. When the adjective is not present, *quite* and the indefinite article cannot be inverted as demonstrated in (4b, b').

- (4) a) *quite a formidable task to me*                      b) *quite a task to me*  
       a') *a quite formidable task to me*                    b') *\*a quite task to me*

According to Quirk et al.'s classification of adverbials (1985, 612), *quite* can be labelled as an adjunct (5a); when modifying verb phrases *quite* can be considered a subjunct as in (5b) or it can occur as an independent clause (disjunct) in reply to a previous statement (5c, d). Quirk et al. (1985, 612) also mention that *quite* in reply to previous statement expresses an agreement and it does not matter whether the statement is positive (5c) or negative (5d).<sup>17</sup>

- (5) a) *Oh, we won't let you go quite yet.* (en:banville-more:0:21:1)  
       b) *I quite agree with you.* (ID2452)  
       c) *He is an amusing fellow, Joe. – Quite.* (ID20614)  
       d) *I cannot commit myself at this time about Manchester.*  
           – *Quite right.* (ID4764)

### 3.3 Previous corpus based research on *quite*

Martinková (2013) explored the meanings of *quite* in pre-adjectival position through translations, specifically through Czech translation equivalents in parallel corpus Intercorp. Similarly to Baños's research (2013), there was also a relatively high rate of zero correspondences; in British fiction it was 37.4% of tokens and in American fiction 27.3% of tokens which were omitted in translation.

Martinková (2013, 21) also mentions several limits connected with the data analysis, i.e., an ambiguity of some Czech equivalents of *quite* such as *dost* which can be considered according to dictionaries either booster or moderator. Another polysemous equivalent is *docela*; it can have either a meaning of a maximizer or it can have a moderating character. Except for ambiguity there are also cases of so called 'other translations' which include examples when Czech translation

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<sup>17</sup> Examples in (5) are taken from InterCorp – v7 English.

equivalent of *quite* is not identified as a degree modifier, but an expression with a more expressive character is used instead, e.g. *quite drunk* > *namol* [dead drunk] (Grisham) (Martinková 2013, 25). These ‘other translations’ seems to cover what is called *intensified lexemes* in Spanish.

Another research concerning different meanings of *quite* was done by Levshina (2015) who focused on semantic varieties of *quite* in twenty geographic varieties of English. As well as Martinková (2013), Levshina explored the distribution of *quite* in its pre-adjectival position, and she used the Corpus of Global Web-Based English (GloWbE) and Trip Advisor reviews.

In the GloWbE, a total number of instances of *quite* immediately followed by an adjective was 237,951 (6,096 adjectives) in all 20 varieties of English. British English was the second highest in frequency of *quite* pre-modifying an adjective while American English was on the 18<sup>th</sup> place. To differentiate particular meanings of *quite* Levshina used distributional cues based on Paradis’s (1997) classification of degree modifiers. Thus *quite* pre-modifying limit and extreme adjectives is considered a maximizer and *quite* followed by scalar adjectives is regarded as a moderator in British English or a booster in American English.

The results of the research show that South Asian and American English have the highest relative frequency of distribution of *quite* followed by limit adjective, as can be seen in **Figure 1**, which, arguably, means that *quite* has a maximizer function. One can see that the relative frequency in British English is significantly lower than in American English. It implies that *quite* in a sense of a maximizer is much more common in American than in British English, which does not correspond with dictionary statements saying that *quite* in American English mostly appears in a sense of a booster and in British English the meaning of a maximizer and moderator prevails.



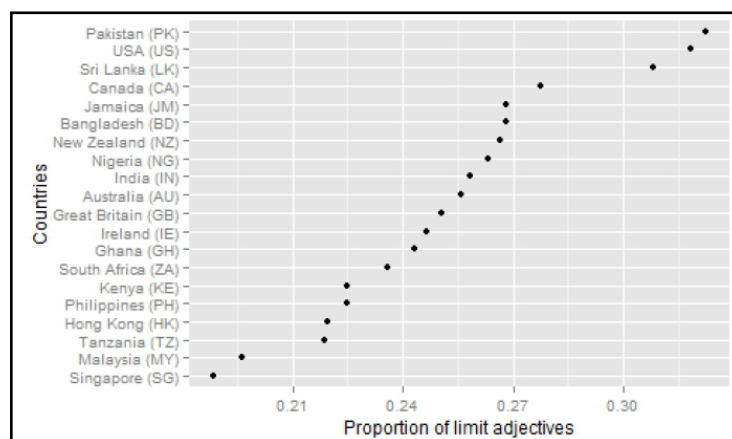


Figure 1: Distribution of *quite* followed by limit adjectives (Levshina, 2015)

On the other hand, **Figure 2** indicates that the distribution of *quite* followed by extreme adjectives (also a maximizer function) is much more frequent British English than in American English, which would confirm the dictionary statements, however, the proportion of extreme adjectives is ten times lower, therefore overall results would indicate that *quite* more frequently appears as a maximizer in American than in British English. Nevertheless, the result does not have to necessarily mean that *quite* has the interpretation of the maximizer in all those cases since Levshina's research does not consider the contextual modification mentioned by Paradis (2001).

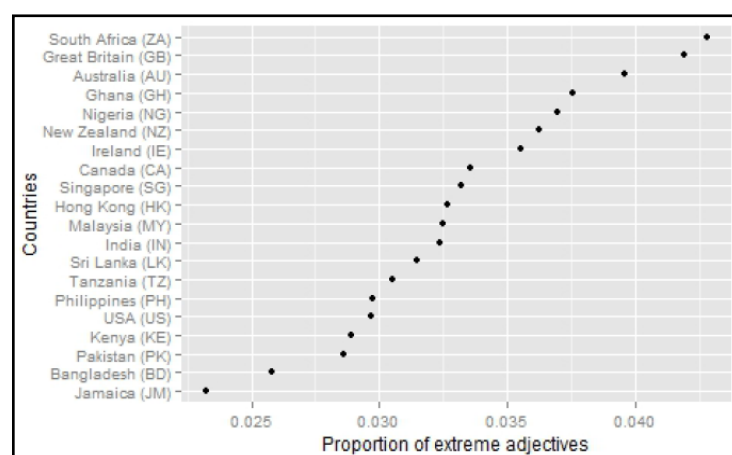


Figure 2: Distribution of *quite* followed by extreme adjectives (Levshina, 2015)

Levshina (2015) also says that with scalar adjectives, *quite* seems to be closer to a booster in American English and the moderating character prevails in

British English, which seems to correspond with the dictionary statements that say: *quite* appearing in a sense of a booster is typical of American English while using *quite* in the meaning of a moderator (and maximizer) is characteristic for British English.

She also points out that with respect to historical evidence the maximizer function of *quite* (mostly appearing in American and South Asian varieties) is etymologically the original one and the moderator character of *quite* (typical of British English) emerged later with ‘exporting’ of English.

Levshina subsequently investigated the positive meaning of *quite* in a sense of a moderator using the data from Trip Advisor. She focused on the adjectival phrase *quite nice* appearing in 90 reviews and regarding speakers from USA, UK, Australia, Canada, India, and Ireland. The positivity of the meaning was measured on a scale from 1 (terrible) to 5 (excellent). The most positive meaning (with respect to above mentioned countries) appeared in American English (4–4.5), while in British English it has the less positive meaning (3–3.5).

In conclusion, the maximizer function of *quite* is more frequent in American English than in British English, the booster function prevails in American English and the moderator function in British English. Nevertheless, it seems that a further research is needed to get more precise results since for example the contextual modulation is not considered.

Hannele Diehl (2005) concentrates on *quite* in a pre-verbal position. Her study follows Paradis’s survey (1997, 2001) of degree modifiers of adjectives and the assumption that gradability is not only a feature of adjectives, but, as Bolinger (1972) says, it can be also found in nouns and verbs. As Diehl (2005, 22) specifies, the dichotomy of unboundedness and boundedness is in case of nouns associated with countability (mass nouns vs. countable nouns) and as for verbs, it is usually aspectuality (state and activity verbs vs. events), as summarized in **Table 8**.

	Unbounded	Bounded
Adjectives	scalar adjectives	limit/extreme adjectives
Nouns	mass nouns	countable nouns
Verbs	state/activity verbs ( <i>hate, swim</i> )	events ( <i>grow up, die</i> )

**Table 8: Modes of gradability**

Diehl investigated 31 random occurrences of *quite* pre-modifying a verb in affirmative contexts found in written part of the British National Corpus, and she concluded that when *quite* collocates with a verb which is clearly in bounded mode, it has a meaning of a maximizer (e.g. *I quite understand*). On the other hand, when *quite* pre-modifies an unbounded verb, it is a booster (e.g. *I quite enjoy this.*) (2005, 32).

## 4 Quite seen through the Spanish equivalents

### 4.1 Methods

This section of the thesis will describe the methods used during the research. Namely, it will introduce the corpus which was used; it will describe how the subcorpora were created as well as it will show what queries were applied.

#### 4.1.1 The corpus used

The corpus used during the research was the online corpus Intercorp (version 7) that includes total number of 1423 mil. tokens in 38 foreign languages. The data was downloaded before 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 when the new version 8 was published. I used the interface Park that is no longer available to select the texts which were subsequently used to create subcorpora in interface KonText.

#### 4.1.2 Creating subcorpora

Before searching for the data in KonText it was important to create three subcorpora of translations of fiction from English to Spanish and vice versa: original British fiction, original American fiction, and English target texts. In order to create the subcorpora I used interface Park to see which texts are available in English and in Spanish. **Figure 3** illustrates the selection of English and Spanish as source languages of the corpora searched in Park.

Languages	Documents
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_cs	Filter by corpus: intercorp_v7_en
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_be	Year of publication: from <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_bg	Text type: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All ] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fiction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nonfiction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> próza <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> legal texts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> discussions - transcripts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> journalism - news
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_ca	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> journalism - commentaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> subtitles
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_da	Originals vs. translations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> translations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> originals <input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_de	Source language: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All ] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> az <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> be <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ca <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> da <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> de <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> el <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> en <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> es <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> et
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_en	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ga <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> he <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ja <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ka <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ko <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ku <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lv <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mn
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_es	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> po <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ro <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ru <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sq <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sv <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ta <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> th <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ti <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tr
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_fr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> un <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> zh <input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_hi	Author's gender: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> men <input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_hr	Translator's gender: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> men <input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_hu	
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_it	
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_lt	
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_lv	
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_mk	_ACQUIS <input type="text"/> Exclude <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_nl	_EUROPARL <input type="text"/> Exclude <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_no	_PRESSEUROP <input type="text"/> Exclude <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_pl	_SUBTTILES <input type="text"/> Exclude <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_pt	_SYNDICATE <input type="text"/> Exclude <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_ro	<input type="button" value="Filter texts"/> <input type="button" value="Manual text selection"/> <input type="button" value="Go to query"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> intercorp_v7_ru	

Figure 3: The choice of source language of corpora searched in Park

While **Figure 4** demonstrates all the texts which appear in KonText in English as well as in Spanish and the original British and American fiction is selected manually.

**Figure 4: Selection of original British and American fiction**

**Table 9** and **Table 10** present the list of original British and original American fiction which is aligned with its Spanish translations including the date of publication. I included only texts published in 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thus (as it is indicated in **Table 9**) I eliminated Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* because of its old date of publication and I omitted also Tolkien’s trilogy. Even though Hawking’s *A Brief History of Time* (**Table 9**) is considered to be rather a popular-scientific book than a fiction, the subcorpus will be labelled Original British fiction since it is the only exception.

Author	Title	Date
Douglas Adams	<i>The Restaurant at the End of the Universe</i>	1980
	<i>So long, and Thanks for All the Fish</i>	1984
	<i>The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy</i>	1979
Lewis Carroll	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	1865
Stephen Hawking	<i>A Brief History of Time</i>	1988
Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>	1986
Ian McEwan	<i>Atonement</i>	2001
Philip Roth	<i>The Human Stain</i>	2000
J. K. Rowling	<i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s stone</i>	1997
	<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	1999
J. R. R. Tolkien	<i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>	1954
	<i>The Two Towers</i>	1954
	<i>The Return of the King</i>	1955

**Table 9: Original British fiction**

Author	Title	Date
Dan Brown	<i>Angels and Demons</i>	2000
	<i>The Da Vinci Code</i>	2003
Francis Scott Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	1925
John Grisham	<i>The Partner</i>	1997
Stephen King	<i>Carrie</i>	1973

**Table 10: Original American fiction**

As for the English target texts, according to Park there are no original Spanish texts translated directly to English in the current version of Intercorp, therefore I created only two subcorpora. **Table 11** shows the size of each subcorpus.

Subcorpus	Size (positions)
Original British Fiction (OBF)	876,949
Original American Fiction (OAF)	625,672

**Table 11: Size of subcorpora**

### 4.1.3 Query

When searching for *quite* pre-modifying adjectives (6a), adverbs (6b) and verbs (6c), it was used CQL query consisting of *quite* as a word followed by arbitrary number of phrases of the particular particular part of speech. *Quite* was specified as a word since it has no morphology and the capital letter as well as the lower-case letter at the beginning of the word was included.

- (6) a) [word="[Qq]uite"] [tag="J.\*"]
- b) [word="[Qq]uite"] [tag="RB.\*"]
- c) [word="[Qq]uite"] [tag="V.\*"]

## 4.2 Data analysis

Firstly the queries described in Section 4.1.3 were applied, using both subcorpora of Original British fiction (OBF) and Original American fiction (OAF). The total number of tokens was 387 and the absolute as well as the relative frequency of particular queries can be seen in **Table 12**.

Part of speech pre-modified by <i>quite</i>	Subcorpus	Number of hits	i. p. m.
Adjective	OBF	117	133.42
	OAF	66	105.49
Adverb	OBF	102	116.31
	OAF	33	52.74
Verb	OBF	61	69.56
	OAF	8	12.79

**Table 12: Numbers of tokens of the queries**

Then I started sorting the data manually according to the types of translation equivalents of *quite*. An excerpt of the table used while sorting the data can be seen in **Table 13**.

Source	Original English version	Spanish version	Degree modifier used in translation
doc#117,ro wlingova- hpot_vezen	“Are you <b>quite sure</b> , dear?”	¿ <b>Totalmente seguro</b> , Harry?	maximizer
doc#115,ro wlingova- hpot_kamen	“I always said he was off his rocker,” said Ron, looking <b>quite impressed</b> at how crazy his hero was.	Siempre dije que era un chiflado - dijo Ron, <b>muy impresionado</b> por lo loco que estaba su héroe.	booster
doc#56,ishi guro- malir_sveta	They say older people sleep less than we do, but from our experience this seems <b>quite incorrect</b> .	Dicen que la gente mayor duerme menos que los jóvenes, pero, según nuestra experiencia, <b>más bien</b> parece lo contrario .	moderator

**Table 13: An excerpt from the table including *quite* pre-modifying an adjective in OBF**

**Table 14** and **Table 15** present particular Spanish equivalents of *quite* (sorted according to Paradis's classification of English degree modifiers) and their absolute frequency with respect to all 387 tokens found in Intercorp.

Degree	Totality modifiers	Number of hits	Abs. freq.(%)
Reinforcer	<b>maximizer</b>		
	<i>totalmente, total</i> [totally, quite, completely, utterly]	13	3.36
	<i>absolutamente, absoluto</i> [absolutely]	2	0.52
	<i>completamente, por completo</i> [completely]	10	2.58
	<i>perfectamente</i> [perfectly]	2	0.52
	<i>enteramente</i> [entirely, completely]	1	0.26
	<i>del todo, con todo</i> [entirely, wholly, fully]	19	4.91
	<i>de medio a medio</i> [totally, altogether, fundamentally]	1	0.26
	<i>fielmente</i> [faithfully, accurately, exactly]	1	0.26
	<i>muy bien</i> [perfectly]	(7)	(1.81)
Attenuator	<b>approximator</b>		
	<i>casi</i> [almost]	6	1.55
Total number of hits in both OBF and OAF:387 (100%)			

**Table 14: Spanish equivalents of *quite* as a totality modifiers found in Intercorp**

Degree	Scalar modifiers	Number of hits	Abs. freq.(%)
Reinforcer	<b>booster</b>		
	<i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly]	60	15.5
	<i>mucho</i> [jolly, a lot]	11	2.84
	<i>sumamente</i> [extremely]	1	0.26
	<i>más</i> [more]	1	0.26
	<i>mucho más</i> [much more]	1	0.26
	<i>profundamente</i> [deeply, profoundly]	1	0.26
	<i>bien</i> [well]	1	0.26
	<i>suficientemente</i> [quite, sufficiently]	1	0.26
	<i>muy bien</i> [very well]	(7)	(1.81)
Attenuator	<b>moderator</b>		
	<i>bastante</i> [quite, rather, fairly, enough]	26	6.72
	<i>cierto</i> [quite, certain, to a certain extent]	1	0.26
	<i>más bien</i> [quite, rather, more likely]	1	0.26
	<b>diminisher</b>		
	<i>poco</i> [insufficiently, hardly, rarely]	1	0.26
Total number of hits in both OBF and OAF:387 (100%)			

**Table 15: Spanish equivalents of *quite* as a scalar modifiers found in Intercorp**



**Table 14** and **Table 15** imply that *quite* was most commonly translated as a maximizer, moderator or booster, which confirms previously mentioned dictionary statements about meanings of *quite*. However, as can be seen in **Table 14** and **Table 15** *quite* was in 6 cases (1.55%) translated also as an approximator (*casi* [almost]), illustrated in (7).<sup>18</sup>

(7) *Harry felt quite sure there had been a horrible mistake.*

*Harry estaba casi* [almost:ADV] *seguro* [sure:ADJ.NOM.SG.M] *de que había una terrible equivocación.*

‘Harry was almost sure there had been a horrible mistake.’

(doc#115,rowlingova-hpot\_kamen)

In one case (0.26%) *quite* was translated as a diminisher (*poco* [hardly, rarely]), see (8). However, it was due to the change of polarity, when the positive polarity item *quite* followed by an ADJ with a negative prefix was translated as negative polarity item *poco* [hardly] followed by an ADJ with a positive meaning.

(8) *It seemed quite unlikely.*

*Le parecía poco* [hardly:ADV] *probable* [likely:ADJ.NOM.SG.N].

‘He considered it hardly probable.’

(doc#17, Brown)

One can notice that the degree modifier *muy bien* can either have a meaning of a maximizer ‘perfectly’ (as in **Table 14**) or it can be considered a booster ‘very well’ (as in **Table 15**), exemplified in (9). *Muy bien* (‘perfectly/very well’) is the only Spanish equivalent of *quite* with an ambiguous meaning found in the subcorpora and it was counted individually.

(9) *I remember that meeting quite clearly.*

*Lo recuerdo muy* [very:ADV] *bien* [well:ADV].

‘I remember it perfectly/very well.’ (doc#56,ishiguro-malir\_sveta)

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<sup>18</sup> The notation system of the glosses and abbreviations adheres to the “Leipzig Glossing Rules” (2008) and all the back translations are mine.

Additionally, there were other cases which were counted separately. Namely, *quite* appearing as an emphasizer (6 hits, 1.55%), illustrated in (10).

(10) *Mr Kuroda's style is quite unmistakable.*

*El estilo del señor Kuroda es realmente [really:ADV] inconfundible [unmistakable:ADJ.NOM.SG.N].*

‘Mr Kuroda’s style is really unmistakable.’

(doc#56,ishiguro-malir\_sveta)

Separately were also counted 4 tokens (1.03%) when *quite* was translated together with the modified item as an intensified lexeme, e.g. *quite caught* > *prendió* (‘captivate, dazzled’) as in (11a) or *quite lost* > *absorto* (‘absorbed, engrossed’) as in (11b).

(11) a) *a quaint little theory which quite caught the public imagination at the time*

*una pequeña y original teoría que, en su momento, prendió [dazzle:PST.IND.PFV.3SG] en la imaginación del público*

‘an original little theory which dazzled the public imagination at the time’

(doc#2,adams-stoparuv\_pruvodc)

b) *I suppose I must have become quite lost in my broodings.*

*Debí de quedarme absorto [absorbed:PASS] en mis tristes pensamientos.*

‘I must have been absorbed in my gloomy thoughts.’

(doc#56,ishiguro-malir\_sveta)

Another individually counted group includes the translation types of *quite* which cannot be classified into any subgroup of degree modifiers recognized by Paradis but they incorporate a degree of intensity in the meaning. The group was labelled ‘other translations’. Such translations occurred in 23 cases (5.94%). Example (12) illustrates ‘other translations’ which seem to indicate a maximizing character of *quite*.

- (12) a) *This is quite astonishing, Setsuko.*  
*No* [NEG] *salgo* [come out:PRS.IND.PFV.1SG] *de* [from] *mi*  
 [my:POSS] *asombro* [astonishment:GEN.SG.M], *Setsuko.*  
 ‘I remain amazed./ I cannot get over it.’  
 (doc#56,ishiguro-malir\_sveta)
- b) *I admit this quite readily.*  
*Lo reconozco sin* [without] *ningún* [any] *tipo* [type:NOM.SG.M] *de*  
 [of] *reservas* [discretion:ACC.PL.F].  
 ‘I admit it without any hesitation.’  
 (doc#56, Ishiguro)

‘Other translations’ seems to be similar to intensified lexemes in a sense that they both have a degree of intensity included in their meaning, however, intensified lexemes substitute both the degree modifier and the modified item for one lexeme, as in (13a, b), while ‘other translations’ can be considered rather a paraphrase (of the original intensified item) which express the intensity as well, demonstrated in (13c, d).

- (13) a) *quite caught* > *prendió* [captivate, dazzle]  
 b) *quite lost* > *absorto* [absorbed, engrossed]  
 c) *quite astonishing* > *no salgo de mi asombro* [I remain amazed]  
 d) *quite readily* > *sin ningún tipo de reservas* [without any hesitation]

In both subcorpora there occurred also a significant number of zero correspondences with quite (162 tokens, 41.86%) as well as there were the cases when the whole phrase containing *quite* was omitted or incorrectly translated (24 tokens, 6.2%).

### 4.3 *Quite* in Original British fiction

The results including Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying adjectives in British English can be seen in **Table 16**.

		Spanish equivalents	Total	Total %	
Totality modifier	maximizer	<i>completamente</i> [completely, utterly]	2	12	10.26%
		<i>de todo</i> [entirely]	3		
		<i>totalmente</i> [totally]	5		
		<i>absoluto, absolutamente</i> [absolutely]	2		
	approximator	<i>casi</i> [almost]	4	3.42%	
Scalar modifier	booster	<i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly]	25	29	24.79%
		<i>mucho</i> [jolly, a lot]	3		
		<i>suficientemente</i> [sufficiently]	1		
	moderator	<i>bastante</i> [rather]	5	6	5.13%
		<i>más bien</i> [more likely]	1		
	maximizer/booster	<i>muy bien</i> [perfectly/very well]	1	1	0.85%
	emphasizer	<i>verdaderamente, verdadero</i> [truly, really]	2	5	4.28%
		<i>realmente</i> [really]	2		
		<i>sí</i> [do]	1		
	intensified lexemes	<i>espantoso</i> [horrible, awful, atrocious]	1	1	0.85%
	‘other’		6	5.13%	
	zero correspond.		49	41.9%	
omitted phrase, wrong translation		4	3.42%		
Total			117	100%	

**Table 16: Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying adjectives found in OBF**

It is obvious that *quite* in pre-adjectival position in British English was most commonly omitted in translation (41.9%) and the second most frequent case was *quite* translated as a booster (23.94%). It means that the dictionary statements from *LDCE* and *OALD* (which say that *quite* is mostly used as a moderator or a maximizer in British English) do not seem completely true since *quite* as a maximizer appeared less frequently than *quite* as a booster, that is, in 10.26% of cases and *quite* in the sense of a moderator appeared only in 5.98% of cases.

Regarding concrete examples of the types of translation equivalents listed in **Table 16**, it is noticeable that the booster *muy* ('very, really, jolly') is undoubtedly the most frequent equivalent of *quite*. The example of *quite* translated as *muy* is demonstrated in (14).

(14) *She had found the transition quite effortless.*

*El cambio de género le había parecido muy [very:ADV] fácil [easy:ADJ.NOM.SG.N].*

'She had considered the transition of genre very easy.'

(doc#90,McEwan-Pokani)

*Quite* as the moderator *bastante* ('fairly') as well as *quite* translated as the maximizer *totalmente* ('totally') appeared in 5 translations and they were the second most common equivalents of *quite* in OBF. Both equivalents are exemplified in (15).

(15) a) *Your message must be quite old.*

*Ese mensaje debe de ser bastante [fairly: ADV] antiguo [old:ADJ.NOM.SG.M].*

'This message must be fairly old.'

(doc#17,brown-sifra)

b) *The situation, however, is quite different in the general theory of relativity.*

*La situación es, sin embargo, totalmente [totally:ADV] diferente [different:ADJ.NOM.SG.N] en la teoría de la relatividad general.*

'The situation, however, is totally different in the general theory of relativity.'

(doc#51,hawking-historie\_casu)

The most frequent node form of *quite* in pre-adjectival position in OBF is *quite sure* (7 tokens). However, *quite* in *quite sure* was in 4 cases omitted in translation and it was translated once as a maximizer (16a), once as a booster

(16b) and there appeared also an instance of the ‘other translation’ which seems to imply a moderating character of *quite* (16c).

(16) a) *Are you quite sure, dear?*

¿*Totalmente* [totally:ADV] *seguro* [sure:ADJ.NOM.SG.M], *Harry?*

‘Are you absolutely sure, Harry?’

(doc#117,rowlingova-hpot\_vezen)

b) *We could never be quite sure.*

*Nunca podríamos estar suficientemente* [sufficiently:ADV] *seguros* [sure:ADJ.NOM.PL.M].

‘We could never be sufficiently sure.’

(doc#51,hawking-historie\_casu)

c) *Harry was quite sure he knew what they were talking about.*

*Harry creía* [think:PST,IND,IPFV,3SG] *saber* [know:INF] *de qué hablaban.*

‘Harry thought he knew what they were talking about.’

(doc#117,rowlingova-hpot\_vezen)

Another position of *quite* investigated in OBC was *quite* pre-modifying an adverb. The data are summarized in **Table 17**.

		Spanish equivalents	Total	Total %	
Totality modifier	maximizer	<i>del todo, con toda</i> + noun [entirely, wholly, completely, fully]	8	16	15.68%
		<i>totalmente, con total</i> + noun [totally]	4		
		<i>completamente, por complete</i> [completely, utterly]	3		
		<i>enteramente</i> [entirely, completely]	1		
	approximator	<i>casi</i> [almost]	2		
Scalar modifier	booster	<i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly]	9	10	9.8%
		<i>más</i> [more]	1		
	moderator	<i>bastante</i> [rather, enough]	6	5.88%	
	maximizer/booster	<i>muy bien</i> [perfectly/very well]	3	2.94%	
	emphasizer	<i>sí</i> [do]	1	0.98%	
	‘other’		2	1.96%	
	zero correspond.		57	55.86%	
	omitted phrase, wrong translation		5	4.9%	
Total			102	100%	

**Table 17: Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying adverbs found in OBF**

One can see that the translation by omission was again the most significant means of translation of *quite* (55.86%). The second most frequent type of translational equivalent of *quite* was a maximizer (15.68%), which seems to correspond with the dictionary statement (that *quite* in British English most typically appears in a sense of a maximizer or a moderator), however, *quite* as a booster (9.8%) is still more frequent than *quite* as a moderator (5.88%).

The booster *muy* (‘very, really, jolly’) (17a) is again overall the most frequent equivalent (9 hits), followed by the maximizer *del todo/con toda* (‘entirely, wholly, completely, fully’) (17b) with 8 hits, and the moderator *bastante* (‘rather, enough’) (17c) is the third most common (6 hits).

- (17) a) *Again, quite naturally, Hotblack Desiato did not reply.*  
*Otra vez de [of] manera [way:INS.SG.F] muy [very:ADV] natural*  
*[natural:ADJ.INS.SG.N], Hotblack Desiato no respondió.*  
 ‘Hotblack Desiato did not reply again, which was very natural.’  
 (doc#0,adams-restaurant\_na\_ko)
- b) *She bit him on the cheek, not quite playfully.*  
*Ella le mordió en la mejilla, no [NEG] de-(e)l [of.the:DET] todo*  
*[entire:ADJ.NOM.SG.M] juguetonamente [playfully:ADV].*  
 ‘She bit him on the cheek, not entirely playfully.’  
 (doc#90,McEwan-Pokani)
- c) *people’s plans often changed quite abruptly*  
*planes de la gente cambian a menudo de [of] forma [way:INS.SG.F]*  
*bastante [rather:ADV] brusca [sharp:ADJ.INS.SG.F]*  
 (doc#1,adams-sbohem\_a\_dik)

The most frequent node form of *quite* pre-modifying an adverb in OBF is *quite so* (18a) and *quite clearly* (18b), both appearing in 11 tokens. *Quite so* was omitted in translation in all 11 cases and *quite clearly* was also mostly omitted in translation (6 hits).

- (18) a) *I had not expected Noriko to take the tension quite so badly.*  
*No esperaba que Noriko sobrellevase tan [so:ADV] mal [badly:ADV]*  
*la prueba.*  
 ‘I didn’t expect Noriko to stand the test so badly.’  
 (doc#56, Ishiguro)
- b) *The cop was quite clearly dead.*  
*Era evidente [obvious:ADJ.NOM.SG.N] que el policía estaba muerto*  
*[dead:ADJ.NOM.SG.M].*  
 ‘It was clear that the policeman was dead.’  
 (doc#2, Adams)



The third query applied in OBF included *quite* followed by a verb. The results can be seen in **Table 18**.

		Spanish equivalents	Total	Total %	
Totality modifier	maximizer	<i>completamente, por completo</i> [completely, utterly]	4	18	29.5%
		<i>del todo</i> [entirely, wholly]	7		
		<i>totalmente</i> [totally]	3		
		<i>perfectamente</i> [perfectly]	2		
		<i>de medio a medio</i> [totally, altogether]	1		
		<i>fielmente</i> [faithfully, accurately, perfectly]	1		
Scalar modifier	booster	<i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly]	5	12	19.67%
		<i>mucho</i> [jolly, a lot]	5		
		<i>profundamente</i> [deeply, profoundly]	1		
		<i>bien</i> [well]	1		
	maximizer/booster	<i>muy bien</i> [perfectly/very well]	2	3.28%	
	intensified lexemes	<i>quite catch &gt; prender</i> [captivate, dazzle]	1	2	3.28%
		<i>quite lost &gt; absorto</i> [absorbed, engrossed]	1		
	‘other’		1	1.64%	
	zero correspondences		25	40.98%	
	omitted phrase, wrong translation		1	1.64%	
Total			61	100%	

**Table 18: Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying verbs found in OBF**

The rate of zero correspondences was again the highest in frequency (40.98%). The second most common translation was *quite* as a maximizer (29.5 %) and the third was *quite* translated a booster (19.67%). *Quite* preceding a verb in a sense of the moderator did not appear at all in OBF, which does not correspond to dictionary statements about *quite*

As for concrete instances of the Spanish equivalents, *quite* was most commonly translated as the maximizer *del todo* (‘entirely, wholly’), that is in 7 hits. While the booster *muy* (‘very, really, jolly’) as well as the booster *mucho* (‘jolly, a lot’) were (with 5 hits) the second most frequent equivalents.

The most common node form of *quite* in pre-verbal position was *quite prepared* (5 hits). *Quite* in *quite prepared* was omitted in translation (2 hits) and it was also translated as a maximizer (2 hits) and a booster (1 hit). Example of *quite* as a maximizer can be seen in (19).

(19) *He was quite prepared to believe...that he was in fact hallucinating.*

*Estaba perfectamente* [perfectly:ADV] *preparado* [prepare:PASS] *para creer...que en realidad tenía alucinaciones.*

‘He was fully prepared to believe...that he was actually hallucinating.’

(doc#0,adams-restaurant\_na\_ko)

In conclusion, the most common types of translations of *quite* in British English are zero correspondences, maximizers, boosters, moderators, and omitted phrases. **Table 19** illustrates the proportional representations of the most frequent equivalents of *quite* in OBF.

	maximizer		booster		moderator		zero correspond.		omitted phrase	
quite + ADJ	12	10.26%	29	24.79%	6	5.13%	49	<b>41.9%</b>	4	3.42%
quite + ADV	16	15.68%	10	9.8%	6	5.88%	57	<b>55.86%</b>	5	4.9%
quite + V	18	29.5%	12	19.67%			25	<b>40.98%</b>	1	1.64%
Total:280 hits	46	16.43%	51	18.21%	12	4.29%	131	<b>46.79%</b>	10	3.57%

**Table 19: Most common distribution of *quite* in OBF**

One can see that the rate of zero correspondences is definitely the highest in frequency (46.79%). The dictionary statements which say that *quite* in British English most commonly appears in sense of a maximizer or a moderator does not seem to be completely true since *quite* in pre-adjectival position most commonly appears as a booster (24.79%) than a maximizer (10.26%), which causes that the overall frequency of the maximizer is slightly lower (16.43%) than the frequency of the booster (18.21%) and the frequency of the moderator is relatively low (4.29%). The frequency of omitted phrases (3.57%) is relatively low as well.

#### 4.4 *Quite* in Original American fiction

Results showing the the types of translation of *quite* in pre-adjectival position in OAF are summarized in **Table 20**.

		Spanish equivalents	Total		Total %
Totality modifier	maximizer	<i>completamente</i> [completely, utterly]	1	2	3.03%
		<i>totalmente</i> [totally]	1		
Scalar modifier	booster	<i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly]	17	20	30.3%
		<i>mucho</i> [jolly, a lot]	2		
		<i>sumamente</i> [extremely]	1		
	moderator	<i>bastante</i> [rather, enough]	12	13	19.69%
		<i>cierto</i> [certain, to a certain extent]	1		
diminisher	<i>poco</i> [a little, hardly, rarely]		1	1.52%	
	maximizer/booster)	<i>muy bien</i> [perfectly/very well]		1	1.52%
	intensified lexemes	<i>quite helpful</i> > <i>crucial</i> [crucial, essential]	1	1	1.52%
	‘other’			10	15.15%
	zero correspondences			12	18.18%
	omitted phrase, wrong translation			6	9.09%
Total				66	100%

**Table 20: Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying adjectives found in OAF**

One can notice that *quite* was most commonly translated as a booster (30.3%), which confirms the dictionary statements that *quite* in American English appears most frequently in a sense of a booster. The second most common type of translation of *quite* was a moderator (19.69%), which is only slightly more frequent than the rate of zero correspondences (18.18%).

Regarding particular instances of Spanish equivalents, *quite* most commonly appears as the booster *muy* (‘very, really, jolly’) including 20 hits, illustrated in (20). The second most common translation is *quite* as the moderator *bastante* (‘rather’) with its 12 hits.

(20) *I am quite familiar with incendiaries, Ms. Vetra.*

*Estoy muy [very:ADV] familiarizado [acquaint:PASS] con las sustancias incendiarias, señorita Vetra.*

‘I am well acquainted with the incendiaries, Ms. Vetra.’

(doc#15,brown-andele\_demoni)

The most frequent node form was *quite sure* which appeared in 5 tokens. *Quite* in *quite sure* was in 3 hits omitted in translation and in 2 hits it was translated as a maximizer, see (21).

(21) *I’m quite sure.*

*Estoy completamente [completely:ADV] seguro [sure:ADJ.NOM.SG.M].*

‘I am absolutely sure.’

(doc#63,king-carrie)

Another position of *quite* searched in OAF was *quite* pre-modifying adverbs. The results are summarized in **Table 21**.

		Spanish equivalents	Total	Total %
Totality modifier	maximizer	<i>del todo</i> [entirely, wholly, completely, fully]	1	3.03%
Scalar modifier	booster	<i>muy</i> [very, really, jolly]	4	5 15.15%
		<i>mucho más</i> [much more]	1	
	moderator	<i>bastante</i> [rather, enough]	3	9.09%
	‘other’		3	9.09%
	zero correspondences		15	45.45%
	omitted phrase, wrong translation		6	18.18%
Total			33	100%

**Table 21: Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying adverbs found in OAF**

One can see that *quite* was most commonly omitted in translation (45.45%), even the translation by omission of the whole phrase was the second most frequent means of translation (18.18%). The third most numerous type of translation of

*quite* was a booster (15.15%), which again confirms the dictionary statements that *quite* in sense of a booster prevails in American English.

The most common equivalent was again the booster *muuy* ('very, really, jolly') with 4 hits followed by the moderator *bastante* ('rather') (3 hits). The most frequent node form of *quite* in pre-adverbial position in OAF was *quite literally* which was once omitted 6 times, see (22), and once it was translated as the moderator *bastante* ('rather').

(22) *The entire Catholic faith had been built, quite literally, upon St. Peter.*

*Toda la fe católica había sido construida, literalmente* [literally:ADV], *sobre la tumba de san Pedro.*

'The entire Catholic faith had been built, literally, upon St. Peter's tomb.'  
(doc#15,brown-andele\_demoni)

The last query searched in OAF included *quite* in a pre-verbal position.

**Table 22** shows the results.

		Spanish equivalents	Total	Total %
Scalar modifier	booster	<i>mucho</i> [jolly, a lot]	1	12.5%
	'other'		1	12.5%
	zero correspondences		4	50%
	omitted phrase, wrong translation		2	25%
Total			8	100%

**Table 22: Spanish equivalents of *quite* pre-modifying verbs found in OAF**

*Quite* pre-modifying a verb seems to be quite rare in American English since in OAF there appeared only 8 tokens, which is only 2.07% of tokens with respect to total number of 387 hits found in Intercorp. In most cases *quite* was omitted in translation (4 hits) or the whole phrase containing *quite* was omitted (1 hit) or the phrase was even incorrectly translated (1 hit). The only instance of *quite* translated as a degree modifier was *quite* translated as the booster *mucho* ('jolly, a lot'), see (23).

(23) *He was quite surprised.*

*Se* [REFL] *sorprendió* [surprise:PST,IND,PFV,3SG] *mucho* [very:ADV].

‘He was very surprised.’

(doc#44,Grisham-Partner)

There was also one instance of the ‘other translation’ which seems to indicate a moderating character of quite, showed in (24).

(24) *It was quite becoming.*

*No* [NEG] *me* [I:DAT] *quedaba* [fit:PST,IND,IPFV,3SG] *mal* [badly:ADV].

‘It does not look bad.’

(doc#44,Grisham-Partner)

To sum it up, the most common types of translations of *quite* in American English are zero correspondences, boosters, moderators, omitted phrases, and maximizers. **Table 23** illustrates the proportional representations of the most frequent equivalents of *quite* in OAF.

	maximizer		booster		moderator		zero correspond.		omitted phrase	
quite + ADJ	2	3.03%	20	<b>30.3%</b>	13	19.69%	12	18.18%	6	9.09%
quite + ADV	1	3.03%	5	15.15%	3	9.09%	15	<b>45.45%</b>	6	18.18%
quite + V			1	12.5%			4	<b>50%</b>	2	25%
Total:107 hits	3	2.8%	26	24.3%	16	14.95%	31	<b>28.97%</b>	14	13.08%

**Table 23: Most common distribution of *quite* in OAF**

The rate of zero correspondences in OAF is not always the most frequent type of translation since in case of *quite* translated as a booster while pre-modifying an adjective prevails. The dictionary statements, which state that *quite* in American English mostly appears in a sense of a booster, seems to be true as the total frequency of *quite* translated as a booster (24.3%) is after the rate of zero correspondences (28.97%) the second most common. In case of *quite* in pre-verbal position the booster is the only degree modifier which appears in translation. Moderators (14.95%) and omitted phrases (13.08%) are subsequently

the most common types of translation and *quite* as a maximizer appear only in 2.8% of cases.

## 5 Conclusions

The purpose of the thesis was to explore the role of the polysemous English degree modifier *quite* through its Spanish equivalents and compare the types of translations appearing in British and American English as well as verify the dictionary statements regarding *quite*. The parallel corpus Intercorp, interface KonText, was used for the research.

According to various approaches<sup>19</sup> *quite* can basically appear in the sense of maximizer, moderator or booster. However, there appeared also cases when *quite* occurred in a meaning of approximator (*casi* [almost]), diminisher (*poco* [hardly]), emphasize (e.g. *realmente* [really], *verdaderamente* [truly, really]) or intensified lexeme (e.g. *quite helpful* translated as *crucial* [crucial, essential]) and there were also so called ‘other translations’ (e.g. *quite readily* > *sin ningún tipo de reservas* [without any hesitation]).

The dictionaries *LDCE* and *OALD* state that in British English *quite* is used mostly as a moderator or a maximizer, while in American English *quite* in the meaning of a booster is the most common. Regarding British English (see **Table 24** below), it seems that the statements are not completely true since *quite* in pre-adjectival position more frequently appears as a booster than a maximizer, which causes that the overall frequency of the maximizer is slightly lower (16.43%) than the frequency of the booster (18.21%). The moderator occurs in only 4.29% of cases and considering *quite* in pre-verbal position it did not appear at all.

	maximizer		booster		moderator		zero correspond.		omitted phrase	
quite + ADJ	12	10.26%	29	24.79%	6	5.13%	49	<b>41.9%</b>	4	3.42%
quite + ADV	16	15.68%	10	9.8%	6	5.88%	57	<b>55.86%</b>	5	4.9%
quite + V	18	29.5%	12	19.67%			25	<b>40.98%</b>	1	1.64%
Total:280 hits	46	16.43%	51	18.21%	12	4.29%	131	<b>46.79%</b>	10	3.57%

**Table 24: Most common distribution of *quite* in OBF**

<sup>19</sup> See Bolinger (1972), Quirk et al. (1985), Paradis (1997), Biber et al. (1999).



As for American English (see **Table 25**) the dictionary statement seems to be true as the booster (24.3%) was found more frequent than the moderator (14.95%) or the maximizer (2.8%) in all positions of *quite*. Searching for *quite* pre-modifying a verb there appeared only 7 tokens including only one degree modifier: a booster.

	maximizer		booster		moderator		zero correspond.		omitted phrase	
quite + ADJ	2	3.03%	20	<b>30.3%</b>	13	19.69%	12	18.18%	6	9.09%
quite + ADV	1	3.03%	5	15.15%	3	9.09%	15	<b>45.45%</b>	6	18.18%
quite + V			1	12.5%			4	<b>50%</b>	2	25%
Total:107 hits	3	2.8%	26	24.3%	16	14.95%	31	<b>28.97%</b>	14	13.08%

**Table 25: Most common distribution of *quite* in OAF**

Previous parallel corpus-based research on intensifiers by Rocío Baños (2013) showed that the original English adverbial intensifiers were in 19.11% of cases omitted in translation, which was the second most common procedure while translating adverbial intensifiers. Likewise, Martinková's presentation (2013) showed that 37.4% of tokens of *quite* in original British fiction as well as 27.3% of tokens in original American fiction were omitted in translation. The relatively high rate of zero correspondences appeared in this research as well, specifically, 46.79% of tokens in British fiction and 28.97% of tokens in American fiction were omitted in translation. There were also instances when the whole phrase containing the degree modifier *quite* was omitted, i. e. 3.57% in British English and 13.08% in American English. Frequencies of particular positions of *quite* can be seen in **Table 24** and **Table 25**.

As Martinková (2013) mentions, particular Czech equivalents of *quite* are ambiguous in their meaning and it limits the possibility to determine the meaning of *quite* through its translation equivalents. These are namely, *dost* (booster or moderator) and *docela* (maximizer or moderator). In the present research there also appeared an ambiguous equivalent of *quite*, that is, *muy bien* which can have either a meaning of a maximizer 'perfectly' or it can be considered a booster 'very well'. However, the occurrence of 7 tokens (1.81% of cases of all 387 hits found in Intercorp) does not seem significant.

Levshina's research (2015) says that the relative frequency of *quite* pre-modifying limit adjectives in British English is significantly lower than in American English. Therefore it seems that *quite* in a sense of a maximizer is much more common in American than in British English, which does not correspond with dictionary statements saying that *quite* in American English mostly appears in a sense of a booster and in British English the meaning of a maximizer and moderator prevails. Nevertheless, Levshina's finding was not confirmed in the present research since the frequency of *quite* as a maximizer was (in all investigated positions) clearly higher in British English (16.43%) than in American English (2.8%). The difference in results seems to be caused by the contextual modification which is not considered by Levshina.

Levshina also says that with scalar adjectives, *quite* seems to be closer to a booster in American English and the moderating character prevails in British English, which seems to correspond with the dictionary statements that say: *quite* appearing in a sense of a booster is typical of American English while using *quite* in the meaning of a moderator (and maximizer) is characteristic for British English. The finding again does not completely correspond to the results of the present research because even though the meaning of a booster prevails in most of the positions of *quite*<sup>20</sup> in American English, the meaning of a moderator is more frequent in American (14.95%) than in British English (4.64%).

Since there are no English target texts of original Spanish fiction in Intercorp, further study is needed, e.g. in ACTRES Parallel Corpus (bidirectional English-Spanish corpus).

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<sup>20</sup> In case in case of pre-verbal position *quite* is more frequent in British English (19.67%) than in American English (12.5%).

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## Corpora

*Czech National Corpus – Intercorp*. Institute of the Czech National Corpus FF UK, Praha. Accessible at WWW: <http://ucnk.ff.cuni.cz/Intercorp/>.