ABSTRACT: After initial thoughts on discourse markers, connectives and their classification, we will study some linguistic expressions of the Galician-Portuguese system from the class of adverbs or adverbial locutions grammaticalized as couterargumentative and parenthetic connectives with adversative meaning. In general terms, the process of grammaticalization was already complete in the nineteenth century, or even before in some cases. Among the relatively high number of counterargumentative connectives, we will pay attention to those that express the notions of preference and contrast, also analysing their formal variation reflected in the written language over the last few centuries and the probable interference of Spanish. Thus, attention will be focussed on the essential identity of Galician and Portuguese, and on the pressure that Spanish has been putting on Galician over the last few centuries. At the same time, we will consider the official standard of written Galician, taking into account the most recent changes and their consequences on the use of connectives in modern Galician.

To sum up, the connective forms to be studied here are, on the one hand, antes (ben), máis ben and ora (ben), where the notion of preference exists, and, on the other hand, en troque(s), en troca, en cambio, with the meaning of trocar (to change) as a basis, as well as polo contrario, ao contrario, por contra and pola contra, expressions developed from the meaning of contra (against). In the analysis of the use and values of these forms, the comparison with Portuguese as an extension of the old Galician-Portuguese system and with Spanish as an interference language in Galicia becomes unavoidable.