The *rico / pobre* ‘Rich / Poor’ Clusters: The Relationship of Opposites in Category Development

The analysis in this section focuses on clusters centered on two opposite central members: *quedar(se) pobre* ‘to become poor’, and *quedar(se) rico* ‘to become rich’. Viewed this way, this section represents an analysis of two separate sets of clusters that are related through their semantic opposition. Even though opposites are examined in other chapters, this analysis does so in more detail because there is a clear spectrum, and therefore connection, between the two opposite central members. This spectrum is a gradient scale showing how subjects may go from ‘rags to riches’ and back. Whereas *solo* ‘alone’ does not have a plausible canonical antonym in the data, *rico* ‘rich’ and *pobre* ‘poor’ are themselves canonical antonyms making them closely related.

Even though the idea of a change of possession implies a change in material status, in this set of clusters *quedar(se) + ADJ* may also denote a change of social state. As will be demonstrated, almost all of the changes in regards to physical objects or wealth point to changes in social position through the evaluation of a person based on their material status. When referring to the possession of a specific physical object in this construction, it is often a metaphorical change that *quedar(se) + ADJ* implies. For example *quedar(se) sin pan* ‘to be left without bread’ and *quedar(se) sin camisa* ‘to be left without a shirt’ (a ‘multiple’ from Example (69)) are metaphors for being poor; they do not describe a change in which a particular person literally loses their bread and their shirt (although that possibility is certainly not excluded). Not all changes described by *quedar(se) + ADJ* are metaphorical, however, and many point to a specific object being gained or lost as a result of the change, and the ensuing detriment or benefit to the subject. For the sake of highlighting the manner of antonymical analysis in this chapter, these clusters are referred to as the *rico / pobre* clusters.

### 6.1 The *rico / pobre* Clusters in the 1200s

As seen in Figure 6.1, neither *pobre* nor *rico* appeared with *quedar(se) + ADJ* in the QAD data in the 1200s. However, in the CDE corpus, there is one occurrence
of each in this century. Since their appearance in the CDE is an indication that the category is in a process of emergence, they are included in these clusters: rico and pobre are given in capital letters and the (D) indicates that they come from Davies’ CDE (2002–). The combination fincar(se) pobre was an overlapping type in this century, which is further evidence that the emergence of quedar(se) + ADJ depends a great deal on attracting types from fincar(se) + ADJ.

The type quedar(se) por heredera ‘to come out as heiress’ is another example of a prepositional phrase being used in the adjectival slot of the change-of-state construction quedar(se) + ADJ. It denotes a change of status that specifically implies a gain in wealth, such as heredera ‘heiress’ in Example (59). Whereas a military boss should be rich and have lots of prestige, wealth is not the primary defining factor of whether or not a person is a military boss. However, by becoming heiress, Doña María should necessarily inherit great wealth and power.

(59) ‘& a pocos dias murio la reyna & quedo por heredera del reyno doñ[a] maria la primera hija que fuera hija del marques conrado & quedo don juan de ybelin por adelantado’
‘And after a few days the queen died, and Doña Maria, the first daughter that would be daughter of the Marques Conrado, was left as heiress of the kingdom, and Don Juan de Ybelin was left as military boss’ (Gran Conquista de Ultramar. 13th c. Anon. O’Neill 1999)

6.2 The rico / pobre Clusters in the 1300s

For the first time in the QAD, the types pobre ‘poor’ and rico ‘rich’ appear in quedar(se) + ADJ. These types provide a clear example of how seeming oppo-