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## The Phenomenon of Women Bobbing Their Hair in Spain in the 1920s

– The acquisition of *cómodo* (comfort) –

This study will analyze in terms of the historical background the factors behind the diffusion in the 1920s of the phenomenon of women in Spain bobbing their hair and will consider it from the point of view of a physical expression of women's bodily sense as "new women" (*la mujer nueva, la mujer moderna*).

Women's bobbed hair was chosen because in Spain it was considered to represent the "new woman" and gave rise to heated debate. Hair style was used as a gender norm in the Spain of the 1920s as at other times. Girls were still taught to be physically passive and docile; and under dictatorial rule of Primo de Rivera, a woman's body was considered to one aimed at "reproduction."

Considering the reason for the spread of short hair from the point of view of feminine subjectivity, the Number One factor behind short hair was the feminist movement. The Number Two factor was the physical sensation expressed in the word "*cómodo*." "*Cómodo*" is a feeling affirmative of one's bodily sense. But of the various things brought about by the transformation in woman's bodily sense, what women who chose to cut their hair were seeking to "acquire" was the self-affirming bodily sense of "*cómodo*" and a more "*cómodo*" situation for themselves. Seeking the physical sensation "*cómodo*," women chose to cut their hair, and they went on to look for other "*cómodo*" for their bodies. Most women who bobbed their hair, although they did not consciously talk about self-assertion to the extent that feminists did, acquired feminine subjectivity through finding the physical sensation of "*cómodo*" .