

Introduction

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For nearly two decades, the *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium* (HLS, now merged with the *Conference on the Acquisition of Spanish and Portuguese*) has brought together researchers to discuss and debate current theories and perspectives on questions relating to the language and linguistic systems of Spanish and Portuguese, as well as related languages, such as Catalan, creoles, indigenous languages of South America, and others. The conference's exclusive focus on Spanish, Portuguese, and related languages has greatly benefitted the field of Hispanic Linguistics. The conference has evolved with the field, showing an increase in experimental design to address issues, with theoretical stances ranging from formal and generativist to variationist and functionalist approaches. The recent decades have witnessed a sea change in our field, as more philological methods of studying Spanish and other Romance languages have given way to more linguistic approaches. As such many programs in Hispanic linguistics now offer courses parallel to those in general linguistics programs, but with a focus on Spanish. Indeed, many offer general linguistics courses to graduates before those specific to Spanish. These practices have created a wealth of scholars who are both specialists in Spanish and well-rounded linguists.

More often than not, the work of these linguists is presented at HLS. As such, this conference provides a sense of the state of the field, while also offering both graduate students and professors a forum in which to discuss the field's emerging ideas and trends. This year we witnessed increased attention to experimental and usage-based design to address some central topics in the field, while still maintaining the balance of applied and theoretical works. Like in years past, the conference not only welcomed researchers from different traditions, but also those who present interdisciplinary approaches to old and new topics. This interdisciplinarity has emerged, in part, from the new tradition in programs in Spanish linguistics, which trains linguists in several aspects of the language, as well as in the rich tradition in studies in Spanish linguistics. This spark of life has led us to branch out in exciting ways, examining language forms from many kinds of speakers, including monolinguals from different regions and of different socioeconomic status, bilinguals from different bilingual communities, second language and heritage learners, and creole speakers. At HLS, which offers studies in these numerous areas of expertise, attendees find both relevance and innovation in this motivating interdisciplinary exchange. Perhaps to a greater extent than any other non-English language-based discipline in the US, research and programs in Hispanic Linguistics have always sought to build bridges between theoretical and applied linguistics. HLS is a perfect reflection of this endeavor. Presenters and audiences undoubtedly benefit from engaging with various perspectives on the same phenomena.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Florida was proud to host the 2012 *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium* October 25–28, 2012 at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. The University of Florida is located in Gainesville, FL, an area that was once a Timucuan Indian village and became part of a Spanish land grant given to a Spanish merchant, Don Fernando de la Maza Arredondo, in December 1817. The city of Gainesville was founded in September 1853, named in honor of the Seminole Indian war general Edmund P. Gaines. The university itself originated as a group of separate institutions that merged in 1905 to create a single state-supported university through the Buckman Act of 1905.

* University of Florida.

We were honored to welcome to our university four renowned speakers as our plenary guests. Barbara Lafford (Professor, Arizona State University) spoke on issues of language acquisition in study abroad and community immersion, i.e., service learning, settings, etc. Silvina Montrul (Professor, University of Illinois–Urbana–Champaign) examined the causes of “incomplete acquisition” among Spanish heritage speakers and advocated for the fruitful integration of sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics to advance this inquiry, pointing to potential new directions in for research on heritage speakers and US Spanish. Acrisio Pires (Associate Professor, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor) delved into issues of bilingualism, and language acquisition and attrition in terms of theories of language change. Shana Poplack (Distinguished University Professor, University of Ottawa) addressed questions of contact-induced change in Romance and the linguistic consequences of bilingualism, such as code-switching, borrowing, and structural convergence. The 2012 HLS also featured over 80 talks and 30 poster presentations from national and international scholars on all issues related to language acquisition, use, and change. Though there was a general focus on bilingualism, like the plenary contributions, these presentations retained the interdisciplinary approach so characteristic of HLS. Studies ranged from formalist to variationist, and included psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic, and structural analyses of bilingual data, addressing topics such as L2 acquisition of variation during study abroad, frequency effects in language change, power and humor, phonetic perception, focus in syntax, and schmoozing, among many others. HLS’s famous collegial atmosphere offered ample opportunities for networking and socializing. With approximately 150 attendees, mostly language scholars from other universities in the U.S. and beyond, we enjoyed participation from scholars from as far away as Auckland, Mexico City, Murcia, Ottawa, Paris, and Toronto, while other participants came from the local Gainesville and UF communities.

The papers presented in this volume offer a characteristic sampling of this intellectual richness. The first four papers focus on a topic that has clearly captured the attention of many Hispanic linguists: the left periphery. The next two chapters examine questions of perception and processing in an L2 and heritage context, which is followed by a general discussion of the role of experiential learning in acquisition in Chapter 7. The following four papers explore questions of L2 and L3 acquisition in terms of pragmatics, phonological category formation, and derivational complexity. These lead into studies of the acquisition of variability in Chapters 12 through 16. The variables covered include subject form, pronoun expression, past tense, and future expression in both L1 and L2 Spanish. The focus on variation continues in Chapters 17 to 20, with four corpus-based analyses of language use. The phenomena of interest include phonetic reduction, ideological representation in the media, clitic alternation, and Present Perfect variability in Andean Spanish. The emphasis on usage continues in Chapters 21 and 22, which are historical explorations of Andean Spanish and the Portuguese inflected infinitive, respectively. The volume concludes with a return to the focus on syntax, with three studies examining, respectively, embedded polarity answers in Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese free small clauses, and F projection in *cibeño* Dominican Spanish.

We are deeply grateful to the many individuals and organizations that gave their time, talent, and resources to help make this event happen. The Conference Organizing Committee was chaired by Dr. Gillian Lord and Dr. Ana de Prada Pérez, and included the invaluable assistance of Dr. Jessi Elana Aaron and Dr. Jason Rothman. In addition, we were fortunate to be able to count on a large group of talented graduate students to help out in a multitude of ways. These students are: Osmer Balam, Jennifer Cabrelli-Amaro, Meagan Day, Ana María Díaz Collazos, Sophia Durand, Maria Fionda, David Giancaspro, Becky Halloran, Katherine Honea, Carlos Enrique Ibarra, Tiffany Judy, Heather Kaiser, Anne Lingwall, Drew Long, Dámaris Mayans-Ramón, Diego Pascual y Cabo, Diana Pedraza, Martha Pennock Schaub, Adrián Rodríguez Riccelli, Whitman Suárez, Valerie Trujillo, Kelly Woodfine and Sara Zahler.

Without a doubt, the conference would not have been possible, nor nearly as successful, if it were not for the support of our sponsors. We especially thank these centers, departments, and units at the University of Florida: Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, with support from the Rothman Endowment, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of Research, and the Department of Linguistics. Additionally, we are grateful for the support provided by Pearson Education, John Benjamins Publishing Company and the Alachua County Tourism Board/VisitGainesville.

The presentations we enjoyed at the 2012 conference were of the highest quality, thanks in large part to not only the presenters themselves but also to the many individuals who generously donated their time and expertise to the abstract reviewing process. They are listed here in recognition of their contribution: Jessi Elana Aaron, Gabriel Alfaraz, Patricia Amaral, Mark Amengual, Meghan Armstrong, Hilary Barnes, Joyce Bruhn de Garavito, Jennifer Cabrelli Amaro, José Camacho, Ana Maria Carvalho, Clancy Clements, Alejandro Cuza, Elena Davidiak, Manuel Delicado-Cantero, Laura Domínguez, Manuel Díaz-Campos, Ana María Escobar, Bruno Estigarribia, Timothy Face, Richard File-Muriel, César Félix-Brasdefer, Kimberly Geeslin, Verónica González López, Grant Goodall, John Grinstead, Aarnes Gudmestad, Pedro Guijarro-Fuentes, Javier Gutierrez-Rexach, José Esteban Hernández, Miren Hodgson, Michael Iverson, Tiffany Judy, Sonia Kania, Cynthia Kauffeld, Paula Kempchinsky, Ryan LaBrozzi, Juana Liceras, John Lipski, Gillian Lord, Paul Malovrh, Dunia Mendez Vallejo, Jim Michnowicz, Karen Miller, Silvina Montrul, María Irene Moyna, Rafael Núñez-Cedeño, Erin O'Rourke, Francisco Ocampo, Francisco Ordóñez, Rafael Orozco, Iván Ortega Santos, Luis Ortiz López, Ricardo Otheguy, Diego Pascual y Cabo, David Pharies, Carlos Eduardo Piñeros, Chris Pountain, Ana Teresa Pérez Leroux, Ana de Prada Pérez, Margaret Quesada, Yasaman Rafat, Fernando Ramallo, Rajiv Rao, Joel Rini, Celeste Rodríguez Louro, Miguel Rodríguez-Mondoñedo, Jason Rothman, Nuria Sagarra, Liliana Sánchez, Miquel Simonet, Sarah Sinnott, Natalya Stolova, Eva María Suarez Bündenbender, Fernando Tejedo Herrero, A. Jacqueline Toribio, Rena Torres Cacoullós, Catherine Travis, Don Tuten, Elena Valenzuela, Julio Villa García, Dieter Wanner, Erik Willis, Karen Zagona, and María Luisa Zubizarreta.

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As anyone who has worked on an edited volume—of conference proceedings or any other type—knows, the volume editors rely on the expertise of a panel of scholars who review the submissions and, more often than not, provide valuable feedback for the authors. We are no exception. Thus, we offer our hearty appreciation to the following individuals, who agreed to review the manuscripts for this volume: Mark Amengual, Patricia Andueza, Adolfo Ausín, Omar Beas, James Bruno, Jennifer Cabrelli Amaro, José Camacho, Hector Campos, Ana Maria Carvalho, Clancy Clements, Viviana Cortés, Alejandro Cuza, Elena Davidiak, Gibran Delgado, Manuel Delicado-Cantero, Marcela Depiante, Amelia Dietrich, Bruno Estigarribia, Maria Cristina Figueiredo Silva, Lorenzo García-Amaya, Kim Geeslin, Verónica González López, Aarnes Gudmestad, Pedro Guijarro-Fuentes, Tim Gupton, Javier Gutiérrez-Rexach, Stasie Harrington, Nicholas Henriksen, José Esteban Hernández, Chad Howe, Michael Iverson, Sonia Kania, Paula Kempchinsky, Elizabeth Kissling, Ryan LaBrozzi, Xiaoshi Li, Juana Liceras, Jared Linck, John Lipski, Judith Liskin-Gasparro, Gillian Lord, Paul Malovrh, Dunia Méndez Vallejo, Jim Michnowicz, Karen Miller, Rafael Núñez-Cedeño, Francisco Ocampo, Francisco Ordóñez, Rafael Orozco, Iván Ortega Santos, Luis Ortiz López, Kyaesung Park, Chris Pountain, Ana de Prada Pérez, Yasaman Rafat, Fernando Ramallo, Diana Ranson, Rajiv Rao, Celeste Rodríguez Louro, Miguel Rodríguez-Mondoñedo, Rebecca Ronquest, Marda Rose, Elena Valenzuela, Julio Villa García, Álvaro Villegas, Erik Willis, and Steffi Wulff.

Last but not least, we owe a debt of great gratitude to the 25 authors whose work is featured in these pages. The quality of scholarship they bring to these proceedings is what ensures that the *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium* will remain the leading conference for scholars of Spanish and Portuguese linguistics. And finally, these proceedings volumes, which allow us to share our work with scholars around the world, would not be possible without the cooperation of the Cascadilla Proceedings Project and the always able and generous assistance of Michael Bernstein. It was a great pleasure to host the 2012 *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the University of Ottawa in 2013!

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