

Introduction

Lotfi Sayahi and Maurice Westmoreland
The University at Albany, State University of New York

The Second Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics took place on March 25th and 26th, 2004. As was the case with the First Workshop, it was intended to be a highly focused event that brought together researchers with similar theoretical and empirical interests. The papers delivered analyzed samples of Spanish data collected in a variety of contexts dealing with different structural levels. The fact that there were no parallel sessions allowed the participants to give and receive constructive feedback in a close-knit environment. Among the papers that were submitted for publication in the proceedings, eleven were selected and are included in the present volume in the order in which they were presented in the workshop.

In “Code-switching or Borrowing? No sé *so* no puedo decir, *you know*”, John Lipski addresses the appearance of switched functional words which often occur spontaneously among Spanish bilinguals. He analyzes in particular the use of *so*, which he notes similarly occurs with English L2 speakers of Spanish. His data is taken primarily from a large corpus of taped interviews. After surveying existing scholarship and presenting a detailed analysis on the use of *so* in these contexts, Lipski proposes that we give greater import to the broader sociolinguistic context in which the switching takes place. He argues that the phenomenon reflects a metalinguistic bracketing, and signals the presence of a meta-level in which discourse is mediated by a small group of functional items. It further offers evidence of both language shift and domain of language usage.

In “Sociophonetic Knowledge of Spanish and Control of Style”, Jorge Guitart discusses the lateralization of the Spanish flap /r/ in coda position as an example of where native speakers can be seen to lack maximal sociophonetic knowledge or control over the different modes of pronunciation called styles. Using a constraint-based theory of phonology, he elaborates on different points which help explain why speakers might lack full control over their speech style. He suggests that we must consider that speakers who do show variation are not using “a single natural language underlain by a single system but perhaps two natural languages underlain by two different systems”.

In “Official Bilingualism in Paraguay, 1995-2001: An Analysis of the Impact of Language Policy on Attitudinal Change”, Shaw N. Gynan details shifts in attitude towards Guaraní and Spanish-Guaraní bilingualism following the adoption of a government program promoting Paraguayan bilingualism six years earlier. His data derives from a survey of 1,113 informants, principally education professionals, which he compares to a 1995 survey, less broad and ambitious in scope. He finds that the new policy has served to reduce the seeds of language conflict and to encourage a more positive predisposition towards both Guaraní and bilingualism.

In “Mainland Spanish Colonies and Creole Genesis: The Afro-Venezuelan Area Revisited”, Manuel Diaz-Campos and Joseph Clancy Clements examine evidence for indications of a Venezuelan Creole language in the Barlovento region. They find that socio-historical, demographic, and linguistic data do not support the hypothetical presence of a Creole there, noting that slaves came to Venezuela in relatively small numbers and had direct contact there with native Spanish speakers.

In “La divergenca entre actitudes y conducta lingüísticas: la gheada gallega y la formación de un registro culto oral”, Juan Antonio Thomas describes the use of, and social attitudes towards, the gheada among highly-educated Galicians. The phenomenon, marked sociolinguistically, involves the pronunciation of the voiced velar occlusive [g] as a voiceless laryngeal [h]. His data derives from a written survey of 24 education professionals at the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela. He finds that the surveyed group, while behaving in roughly similar fashion to other groups in using the gheada primarily at home, shows overwhelming acceptance of the pronunciation being used in public. He details both levels of use and attitudes vis-à-vis a number of sociolinguistic variables.

In “Contact Induced Change? Overt Nonspecific *Ellos* in Spanish in New York”, Naomi Lapidus and Ricardo Otheguy detail the use of nonspecific *ellos* in New York City Spanish. The corpus of their

study is 123 oral interviews with speakers divided into three different groups based on length of time in the US. The researchers found 93 tokens of *ellos* used with nonspecific verbs, which corresponded to 4% of the time *ellos* appeared. They categorized as nonspecific any overt or null subject pronoun lacking an explicit antecedent or whose explicit antecedent was *alguien*, and note that differing degrees of nonspecificity affect *ellos* appearance: as nonspecificity decreases, nonspecific *ellos* use increases. They suggest that the appearance of nonspecific *ellos* with Latin Americans arrived at age 17 or older and who have been in NYC for no more than 5 years indicates that established views of its categorical absence in general (pre-contact) Spanish are oversimplified, and that there is only a tendency towards absence.

In “El juego de los enunciadores en un discurso político (discurso del Presidente del Colegio de Profesores de Chile, en la marcha nacional por la dignidad del magisterio, 16 de Octubre de 1998)”, Viviana Unda analyzes the way in which specific linguistic discourse features are employed to promote a given political end. The data is a text of a speech delivered by Jorge Pavez, directed primarily to teachers, and to a lesser extent, the Chilean government and public opinion. Unda looks particularly at how the speaker uses *nosotros* and related forms to signal that the ideas within the text originate not from an individual speaker but from the group whose interests are being addressed.

In “El uso de los apéndices modalizadores ¿no? y ¿eh? en español peninsular”, María José García Vizcaíno analyzes the differing pragmatic functions of the two particles. She concludes that their primary difference does not pertain so much to contrasting degrees of courtesy as to a difference in speaker orientation towards the listener. With the use of ¿no? the speaker seeks to corroborate vis-à-vis the listener a proposition, while ¿eh? expresses a more egocentric stance. García Vizcaíno notes that the differing grammaticality of “Muchas gracias, ¿eh?” and “*Muchas gracias, ¿no?” reflects this distinction. In her study, the author analyzes a random sample of 200 instances of each particle and applies substitution tests to examine their semantic equivalencies. Data for the analysis is drawn from the *Corpus Oral de Referencia del Español Contemporáneo* (Madrid).

In “‘Dear Amigo’: Exploring Code-switching in Personal Letters”, Cecilia Montes-Alcalá studies written code-switching among a small group of educated Spanish-English bilinguals. Data is taken from both personal letters and informal notes. She finds that the socio-pragmatic functions displayed in written code-switching parallel those found in oral code-switching, that individuals who normally code-switch in speaking will also do so when writing, and that even those who normally avoid oral code-switching will shift languages when writing to another bilingual. The latter, she observes, suggests that written code-switching does not carry as heavy a social stigma as oral code-switching. She notes the particular importance that biculturalism plays in the phenomenon.

In “Social Stratification in Women’s Speech in Rural Puerto Rico: A Study of Five Phonological Features”, Jonathan Carl Holmquist examines the social variables influencing women’s use of five phonological variants: *i* and *u* in lieu of *e* and *o*, the use of the velar trill, the labialization of *-r*, and the rhotacism of *-l*. His data comes from Castañer in the southwestern Puertorrican interior (municipality of Lares), taken from recorded conversations. In his study he looks at both generational and employment variables, and notes the patterns of variant selection for women correspond roughly to those found in his earlier studies on men, and that the social conditioning of dialect usage is quite notable.

In “Gender Roles and the Variants of /r/”, Maríadelaluz Matus-Mendoza reports on the use of the three vibrant /r/ allophones, the tap, the trill, and the voiceless assimilated variant, in word final position among Mexicans living in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Drawing on data obtained from 45 minute interviews with 29 informants, she notes an increased use of the trill variant, and suggests that this pronunciation works as a marker of group identity, corresponds to generational differences between workers, and appears in environments not necessarily marked by emphasis.

In “Consonantal Variation of Spanish in Northern Morocco”, Ruth Scipione and Lotfi Sayahi analyze the features and level of variation in Spanish consonant pronunciation among highly-proficient Arabic speakers of Spanish in Tangier, Morocco. Their data derives from sociolinguistic interviews with seven North Moroccan males between the ages of 18-28 who have acquired Spanish naturalistically. Scipione and Sayahi identify the most problematic sound segments for acquisition by these speakers as being the fricative allophones of the voiced stops, the palatal nasal, and the

simple/multiple vibrant trill distinction. Speakers further demonstrate a sociolinguistic awareness in their selection and use of variant options.

The success of the workshop and the publication of the present proceedings have been made possible thanks to the effort and the enthusiasm of several parties. We would like to thank in particular our guest speakers, John Lipski and Jorge Guitart, who were extremely generous with their time, delivered most interesting talks, and contributed greatly to the discussions. Thanks also to the members of the organizing committee, Luis Paris and Gerardo Augusto Lorenzino for their active participation and especially to Clancy Clements whose contribution was crucial at all moments as a member of the organizing committee, session chair, and very active participant. We are also grateful to Cynthia Fox and Jonathan Holmquist who each kindly chaired a session.

We would like to thank the graduate students in the Spanish Linguistics Program at the University at Albany for their enthusiasm and involvement, especially Tonya Burandt-Hanson, Maura McCann, Elba Sanchez, and Juan Antonio Thomas who made sure that all the arrangements were in place for the success of this event. The workshop would not have been possible without these individuals' involvement and that of the participants who created such an interesting and dynamic environment.

We are grateful for the institutional support provided by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University at Albany. Many thanks also to Cascadilla Press and Michael Bernstein for his continuous support and kind patience.

Selected Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics

edited by Lotfi Sayahi
and Maurice Westmoreland

Cascadilla Proceedings Project Somerville, MA 2005

Copyright information

Selected Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics
© 2005 Cascadilla Proceedings Project, Somerville, MA. All rights reserved

ISBN 1-57473-405-2 library binding

A copyright notice for each paper is located at the bottom of the first page of the paper.
Reprints for course packs can be authorized by Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Ordering information

Orders for the library binding edition are handled by Cascadilla Press.
To place an order, go to www.lingref.com or contact:

Cascadilla Press, P.O. Box 440355, Somerville, MA 02144, USA
phone: 1-617-776-2370, fax: 1-617-776-2271, e-mail: sales@cascadilla.com

Web access and citation information

This entire proceedings can also be viewed on the web at www.lingref.com. Each paper has a unique document # which can be added to citations to facilitate access. The document # should not replace the full citation.

This paper can be cited as:

Sayahi, Lotfi and Maurice Westmoreland. 2005. Introduction. In *Selected Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics*, ed. Lotfi Sayahi and Maurice Westmoreland, v-vii. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

or:

Sayahi, Lotfi and Maurice Westmoreland. 2005. Introduction. In *Selected Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics*, ed. Lotfi Sayahi and Maurice Westmoreland, v-vii. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. www.lingref.com, document #1135.