

# Introduction

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The Fourth International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS4), organized by Lofti Sayahi, Gerardo Augusto Lorenzino, Maruice Westmoreland and Juan A. Thomas, took place at The University at Albany, State University of New York on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This Workshop continues the tradition established at the First and Second Workshops, also held at Albany in 2002 and 2004, respectively, and the Third Workshop, held at Temple University in 2006. Four plenary addresses were delivered and seven sessions were held over the course of the event. There were a total of thirty-three presentations from researchers involved in the many and varied aspects of Spanish sociolinguistics. As with the previous three Workshops, this Workshop was also conducted in a single session in order to focus attention on each presentation and was the first to host a poster session that allowed for productive one-on-one interactions with presenters. Both the large number of participants and the presence of the four plenary speakers, each a pioneer in the field of Spanish sociolinguistics, Drs Jonathan Holmquist José Luis Blas Arroyo, Shana Poplack and Gregory Guy, bear witness to the fact that the Workshop has become an important international forum for the communication of new investigation in the field of Spanish sociolinguistics. Among papers presented and subsequently submitted for publication, sixteen were selected and are presented here.

This volume of selected proceedings represents well the high level of conference presentations. It is an honor to initiate the volume with contributions authored by two of the distinguished plenary speakers, José Luis Blas Arroyo and Jonathan Holmquist. In “Variación lingüística e identidad en la España plurilingüe. Una aproximación multidisciplinar”, Blas Arroyo offers an in-depth analysis of the complex evolution and interplay of language and identity factors in modern democratic Spain. He offers several examples that illustrate how the languages of Spain have come to serve as badges of linguistic and cultural identity during the past thirty years. The article highlights several strategies that speakers use to affirm a certain identity, such as terms used to designate the name of the language spoken, language choice, and in some areas, a hierarchy of names which label individuals as native or non-native speakers. Other strategies, typical of situations of languages in contact and of bilingual discourse, such as the use of loanwords and code-switching, are also presented as ways how the languages of Spain can convey both subtle and overt messages of identity. Some obstacles that prevent languages from becoming the main signs of identity, such as immigration, are also discussed. In “Gender in Context: Features and Factors in Men’s and Women’s Speech in Rural Puerto Rico”, Holmquist, summarizes extensive fieldwork that he carried out in Castañer, Puerto Rico. He analyzes the interaction of gender with several phonological variables, such as high word-final vowels, velarization of the vibrant, behavior of word final –s, lateralization of –r. He also details the behavior of some morpho-syntactic variables: –mos versus –nos, variation within ‘haber’ forms and subject pronoun expression. He concludes that the Spanish of this community shows that gender interacts in different ways with different linguistic features. These speakers evidence similar patterns of grammar and phonology as those documented in other investigations and that much more is similar than is different.

The remainder of the volume is divided into four thematic groupings: phonological variation, morpho-syntactic variation, discourse analysis, and language contact. The contributions focusing on the phonological variable begin with Gabriela Alfaraz’s “The Lateral Variant of (r) in Cuban Spanish” which analyzes a variable in Cuban Spanish that has received little attention during the past few decades, syllable final –r. Alfaraz investigates the oral Spanish of two generations of Cuban speakers and shows how the younger generation favors the lateral variant. The author discusses several phenomena which help to understand the emergence of that variant, such as speaker’s employment in a specific secondary economic activity. Similarly focusing on the liquids, Manuel Díaz-Campos and Mary Carmen Ruiz-Sánchez’s article, “The Value of Frequency as a Linguistic Factor: The Case of

Two Dialectal Regions in the Spanish-Speaking World”, shows the influence of lexical frequency on final *-r* deletion in oral speech samples in Caracas, Venezuela and Alcalá de Guadaíra, Spain. Charles Chang reports an increase in the use of the voiceless palatal sibilant by some speakers from Buenos Aires in “Variation in Palatal Production in Buenos Aires Spanish”. Chang does not find gender effects, but the younger speakers in his sample tended to choose the voiceless variant. In “Aspiración y elisión de la /s/ posnuclear en un programa televisivo venezolano”, Craig Stokes analyzes the realization of final /s/ by Venezuelan speakers, showing that the speakers favored deletion and aspiration and that gender was a factor in the participants’ articulation of final /s/.

Four papers deal with morpho-syntactic variation. In “El uso variable de los pronombres sujetos: ¿Qué pasa en la costa Caribe colombiana?”, Rafael Orozco and Gregory Guy use an oral database of Spanish from Barranquilla, Colombia to describe the frequency of pronoun expression in Barranquilla, which is similar to that of Caribbean Spanish, but quite different from other dialects of Spanish. In “A Diachronic Analysis of Frequency Adverbials: Variation in Peninsular and Latin American Spanish”, Roberto Mayoral Hernández and Asier Alcázar find a preference for preverbal adverbs by modern Latin American male authors represented in the *Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual* (CREA) and in the *Corpus Diacrónico del Español* (CORDE). Also using data from the CREA corpus, Sandro Sessarego’s “Spanish Concordantia Temporum: an Old Issue, New Solutions” highlights the increasing frequency of tense agreement violations in the subjunctive of writers from Bolivia and Perú. Chad Howe and Scott Schwenter present arguments in favor of the use of a multi-faceted methodology in “Variable Constraints on past reference in dialects of Spanish” to study the variation in the use of Present Perfect and the Preterit in Lima, Perú. Howe and Schwenter clearly show that the distribution of Present Perfect and Preterit forms in oral speech from Lima are not governed by the same internal constraints operative in other dialects of Spanish.

The papers related to discourse analysis include the following. In Sonia Balasch’s “Debe (de) ser: Evolución de la variación”, the author traces the diachronic variation of *debe* + infinitive and *debe de* + infinitive and how the former dominates the latter by the nineteenth century. Yayoi Aird performs an acoustic analysis on the discourse marker *y*, showing the cases in which the marker carries a prosodic accent in “Linguistic and Social Variables Influencing the Accent on the Discourse Marker *y* among Puerto Rican Bilinguals in Hampton Roads, Virginia”. Juan Thomas describes the extension of the Castilian discourse marker ‘*bueno*’ in monolingual Galician speech in “‘Bueno’, a pragmatic Castilianism in Galician”.

The section about language contact includes Liliana Paredes and María Luz Valdez’s “Language Contact and Change: Direct Object *Leísmo* in Andean-Spanish”, which shows how non-contact varieties of Spanish share certain linguistic constraints present in contact varieties by analyzing examples of *leísmo* in an oral corpus of bilingual speech from Lima, Perú and monolingual speech from Chota, Cajamarca, a region which had been in contact with Quechua approximately 100 years ago. Marcela San Giacomo and Sharon Peperkamp study the adaptation of Spanish lexical items by a community of Náhuatl speakers from Sierra Norte de Puebla, México in “Presencia del español en Náhuatl: estudio sociolingüístico de la adaptación de préstamos”. The authors investigate the effects of variables such as sex, frequency of use, age, and relationships among speakers and show how two areas of the same community which have different ties to outside communities evidence differences in adaptation strategies. In “Turkish Word Order and Case in Modern Judeo-Spanish Spoken in Istanbul”, Rey Romero reports the result of sociolinguistic questionnaires administered in Istanbul, Turkey to a community of Judeo-Spanish speakers. He documents a classic situation of language loss but notes the development of a case system as well as a change in adjectival syntax in Judeo-Spanish, due to contact with Turkish.

The organizing committee would like to thank all those who attended the Workshop. The success of the event would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and cordiality of the attendees. In particular, the presenters and the authors whose papers were selected for publication deserve special thanks for sharing their research with the conference participants, and now, upon publication of this volume, with the entire scientific community. I, and my co-editor, Maurice Westmoreland, would also like to express our appreciation to all the authors for their patience and for their cooperation during the revision and editing process. The organizing committee would also like to acknowledge and to thank those groups who so generously sponsored the Workshop: the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States Universities as well as several organizations at the University at Albany: the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, the College of Arts

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